

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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Review of the Week.

THE money pressure is beginning to tell, but only beginning to tell, upon the political world: we shall see more of its effects before very long. An agitation is rising up against the Income-tax, and the city of London has joined in the movement. The object is, not to abolish the tax, but to obtain relief from it at some definite period, and to secure a more correct adjustment in the meanwhile. The demand is proper in itself. The Income-tax is very badly adjusted. The most glaring defect at present is, that the man of 90*l.* 19*s.* a year is charged nothing, and the man of 100*l.* 1*s.* is charged 6*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* It is as absurd in the case of a man of 150*l.*, as he pays 8*l.* 15*s.* when the man of 99*l.* escapes. There is not that difference in the condition of the two. The fair mode would be, to strike off a given sum from everybody's income. But, we say, the Income-tax cannot be rendered just. It was therefore a fit impost only for the time when it was introduced—a time of less pressure than the present—for one great effort,—the readjustment of our commercial tariff. As soon as that was accomplished, the purpose should have been to use the readjustment of the tariff as a compensation for the Income-tax payers, who should have been at once relieved. This is the rising opinion in the country. The tax is not of a proper nature, it cannot be made just, and the people are beginning to feel practically the grinding, grazing pressure upon the inequalities; therefore, they are moving. The state of the purse makes them come out politically.

And the state of the purse will exercise a yet stronger pressure upon their political feeling. We have not been alarmists, and do not intend to become so. We cordially concur in the assurance of our contemporaries, that, speaking generally, and always excepting Redpathrobsonism in its many forms, the state of our trade is extremely sound. We do not think that the Bank of England can, by any change in its charter, supply everybody who wants it with just enough more of money to make his circumstances easy. But there is something besides banks; there is good government; there is an intelligible principle for guiding the affairs of the country; and we do believe that the insincere spirit of our foreign policy is operating to entangle us very closely in the schemes of

our worst enemies, and to alienate us from our best friends. The events of the week show this. When England takes a very firm course abroad, the Emperor NAPOLEON is drawn from out of his retreat, and is obliged to agree with us. When our Ministers politely yield, his own importunate subordinates again take up the management of affairs; and, through the alliance, we give positive support to the intrigues of a DE MORNY,—we assist in that enormous scheme in which DE MORNY has for his accomplices ALEXANDER of Russia, ISAAC PEREIRE, HOPE, and others. English money, which has already gone to be wasted about schemes injurious to the trade of this country, is now to be filched away on 20*l.* shares set afloat amongst the reckless speculators of the English money-market on the fiction of constructing impracticable railways in Russia, but really for the purpose of creating a great Russian stock. It is by the 'good understanding' which our Government keeps up with the courts of those vulgar persons, ALEXANDER of Russia, and FRANCIS JOSEPH of Austria, that schemers like DE MORNY, of the Capel-court order, are made men of very high rank, are allowed the facilities of Imperial position in order to push their bubble schemes. An honest scheme would have been above-board, the conditions stated, the shares offered for purchase by business men in an open way. The Income-tax was originally an auxiliary to the institution of Free-trade in this country, it was kept on, doubled to meet the war expenses, kept on double; and we are to go on paying that double tax, while 'peace' with Russia, and the equivocating terms on which we stand with all the parties to the Treaty of Paris, facilitate the giant adventurers in taking away the money that the Englishman would use to pay his Income-tax!

The English people will not be very slow to discover this connexion between the foreign policy of our Governments and the iniquities of the Income-tax. If we should have another war, it would be an excuse for tripling the tax; but with that attempt we should have war at home as well as abroad, and the discord of the English people might perhaps afford the opportunity in which ALEXANDER, FRANCIS JOSEPH, FERDINAND of Naples, FREDERICK of Prussia, and somebody else, might arrange their little matters; entirely depriving England, and England's true friends—Belgium, Piedmont, and the honest people of France—of any conceivable advantages obtained by the late war.

The only result would then be that the SULTAN would retain that Order of the Garter with which our *Gazette* announces that he has been ceremoniously invested this week.

If even that were so, for there might be then no SULTAN in existence to wear the Garter. A Russian sloop of war has been firing on an English gun-boat in the Sea of Azof; and although it is said this week that Russia will give up the Island of Serpents, she sticks to Bolgrad, which keeps her so far on the way towards Constantinople.

Sir JAMES OUTRAM has left England this week to take the command of the Anglo-Indian force against Persia in Herat. The *Constitutionnel* explains that the French officers have not been guilty of the conduct ascribed to them by the *Morning Post*. We suspect that the writer of that article was too well informed to be suddenly set aside by the dictum of the *Constitutionnel*. We are assured, however, that M. BOURKE has poured into the SHAH's ear advice favourable to this country, and very unfavourable to the attack upon Herat; while the French officers in the Persian army are only individual adventurers, for whom the French Government is not answerable. In that case, of course, the French Government would have nothing to say if M. BÜHLER were shot as a cosmopolitan spy in the service of our enemies.

Our contemporaries are surprised by the fact that the Presidential electors nominated by the majority of states in the American union are instructed to elect Mr. BUCHANAN. Our own readers will not be surprised at the event. Nor need our contemporaries have been so, if they had not allowed their own alien wish to blind them to the obvious facts in America.

At home we have the confirmation of the Bishop of LONDON, and the confirmation of Sir ALEXANDER COCKBURN, as Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. It will be well if the Bishop prove as strong a man as the Judge. It is understood that a peerage is at Sir ALEXANDER's disposal, whenever he shall be inclined to take it. The appointment has given very general satisfaction to the public, and we know that it is universally popular with the bar. A proof of this was shown the other evening in the Middle Temple Hall, where he was received with ringing cheers, from the students as well as the bar; young opinion as well as confirmed opinion ratifying the selection. The reception was so unusual that it caused a visible effect on the feelings of the new

Judge. There is often a vulgar prejudice against a man so generally accomplished and esteemed as COCKBURN. People fancy he cannot be a good lawyer, because he is so much besides; but no man can have attained to COCKBURN'S position, with the competition of the bar, under the scrutiny of the Bench, and escape acquiring a thorough knowledge of English law. His admirable faculties of sifting evidence and of explaining it to a jury were shown in the PALMER CASE. His power of penetrating to the pith of a subject has often been displayed in Parliament. There is, indeed, some truth in the counter allegation, that lawyers make indifferent members of Parliament, and are almost by necessity waiters upon Providence and upon Premiers; but if COCKBURN has advanced his party, he has adorned the House.

SIR RICHARD BETHELL, of course, succeeded SIR ALEXANDER as Attorney-General; but some surprise is expressed at the gift of SIR RICHARD'S post as Solicitor-General to MR. STUART WORTLEY. He had retired from practice. His legal qualifications are very respectable, but they were not so high as to make it a duty of the Ministers to place the office at his disposal; and in doing so LORD PALMERSTON has passed over many men at least as able as MR. WORTLEY, who were attached to the Government as well as to the Liberal party.

The appointments have given rise to some curious electioneering manoeuvres at Southampton. MR. EDWIN JAMES has advanced as heir to SIR ALEXANDER. Before him had been Serjeant PIGOTT, who was abruptly cut short in his canvass by a telegraphic Cockburnian message—"I have not yet resigned." So PIGOTT came to town, and JAMES went to Southampton! MR. EDWARD CHADWICK, too, it is said, had 'expressed a wish' to represent Southampton; and really MR. CHADWICK would be a very useful man in much practical business that comes before the House of Commons.

SIR JOHN PAKINGTON has been making a demonstration at Manchester. He has gone down to visit the head-quarters of Secular education, and there has been a decided rapprochement between the representatives of the PAKINGTON bill and the MILNER GIBSON bill, while SIR JOHN, in a capital speech at the Manchester Athenæum, held out the right hand of fellowship to LORD JOHN RUSSELL. If LORD JOHN should go into the Upper House, as some suppose, and as LORD PALMERSTON wishes, really it would seem possible that he should be the head of an Education Cabinet, with PAKINGTON for his leader in the Commons.

A strange drama was performed in St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, on Sunday last. The Bishop of LONDON, 'splitting the difference,' has allowed LIDDELL to have papistical candles and candlesticks on the altar, but not to light them. The fog, however, afforded LIDDELL and his clergy the opportunity of raising spiritual fire under pretext of enlightening the darkness; and the candles were lighted. The undaunted WESTERTON came up with an extinguisher, literally as well as metaphorically, and put out the light. The rallying LIDDELL recommended his lamp-lighting mission; and the baffled WESTERTON acquiesced. To us the Papistry of the candle is puerile; but the Protestantism of the extinguisher is not really more dignified. This is the Church, however, with its LIDDELLS and WESTERTONS, for which MR. GLADSTONE, at a meeting of the "Additional Curate Society," is asking recruits, and for which the Bishop of ST. ASAPH is asking endowments. Before we give the curates, or can expect landed proprietors to supply the endowments, we must settle the institutions of the Church; we must determine whether it is candle or no candle, before we 'please to remember the grotto.'

The REDPATH disclosures have been followed up. The accomplice, KENT, is advanced almost to a level with ROBSON in the scale of his operations, and an accountant has been caught nabbing in the same office.

The gold robbery is followed up by a refusal of the Company to take the loss upon themselves, with an attempt to throw it upon the real owners of the gold; and it comes out that in a previous instance they had compromised the loss. Really it is difficult to draw the line between the ROBSONS and respectable commercial men.

The murder of LITTLE, in Ireland, is held to be a great wonder; as if it were anything wonderful, now-a-days, for a gentleman quietly engaged in his business to be knocked on the head. The novelty of the matter is, that the murderer's motive appears to have been plunder, not revenge or religious sentiment—the usual incentives in Ireland.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

LORD ALBEMARLE ON BENEFIT CLUBS.

LORD ALBEMARLE presided last week at the annual dinner of the Shropham Agricultural Association. In returning thanks for the toast of his health, he made some remarks on the importance of benefit clubs for poor men. "This," he observed, "is a subject in which, of course, the labourer is particularly concerned; but it is not merely the labourer's, but the farmer's and the ratepayer's, question. Mr. Tidd Pratt stated at the anniversary of a benefit club at which he was present that, from documents which, as Government Registrar, he had in his possession, he believed benefit clubs saved the poor rates 2,000,000*l.* a year. Mr. Neison, the most distinguished actuary upon this subject, has said that nearly the whole of the poverty which fills the workhouses with our labouring population, would be prevented if a proper system of benefit clubs were introduced." His Lordship then went on to make some observations with respect to the benefit society called the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows, with which he had had a dispute. He considered that "it embraces the most objectionable principles of all the worst clubs in the country;" and he was further of opinion that it is not solvent.

DR. BRADY AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

A meeting of the Leitrim Liberal Club was held at Carrick-on-Shannon last Wednesday week. "The success of the club," says the *Irish Midland Counties Gazette*, "is now an established fact. But two years established, it has already accomplished much—has, in truth, secured the independence of Leitrim. When, some three years since, we urged the Liberals of Leitrim to organize a county club, we stated our belief that in no Irish county there existed better or more available materials for such an organization. Sanguine as we were, we confess that our hopes have been more than realized. The county of Leitrim is already independent. The Liberals are as three to one on the registry. It alone remains to provide Dr. Brady with an honest and worthy fellow-representative, so that the votes of John Brady may be no longer neutralized by the hostile votes of a Conservative colleague. This, we have no doubt, the club will take measures to accomplish."

ADDITIONAL CURATES SOCIETY.

The Society for Promoting the Employment of Additional Curates in Populous Places held its annual meeting in the Music-hall, Chester, on Tuesday, at noon. The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chester presided. There was a very numerous attendance of the clergy, gentry, and their families resident in the city and neighbourhood; and from the report, it appeared that the funds of the society are increasing. The chief speech was that of Mr. Gladstone, who said that the funds are still inadequate to the objects contemplated, and who pointed out the low pay of the working clergy, and eulogized the courage and devotion of city missionaries.

THE MEMBERS FOR BRISTOL BEFORE THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

The annual dinner of the Anchor Society of Bristol, one of a series of annual festivals to commemorate the great local philanthropist, Edward Colston, was held in the Bristol Athenæum on Thursday last. In the absence of the president, Sir A. H. Elton, Bart., the chair was occupied by Mr. W. H. Gore Langton, M.P. The Hon. F. H. Berkeley, M.P., was also present, and addressed the company on the topics of the day. He applauded Lord Palmerston for the part he had taken in the war, but doubted if he would now turn his attention, as he ought to do, to reform. He agreed with the Administrative Reformers in their desire to remove 'aristocratic dummies' from the House of Commons; but he thought that could only be done by reforming the House, and reform could only be enforced by the people resolutely demanding it, and the people would only demand it when they were moved by some great disaster. After an allusion to his favourite topic of the ballot, Mr. Berkeley sat down. Mr. Gore Langton then addressed the meeting, expressing, among other opinions, great aversion to the King of Naples, but adding that he feared a collision with him would involve us in a war with all the absolutist powers of Europe.

SIR JOHN PAKINGTON ON NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Sir John Pakington delivered, on Wednesday evening, an address on National Education to the members of the Manchester Athenæum, in compliance with an invitation from the directors of that institution. Sir E. Armitage presided on the occasion, and there were present Mr. J. S. Pakington; Mr. Watts, Mayor of Manchester; Sir J. Potter, Mr. Bazley, Mr. J. A. Turner, Sir J. Bardsley, the Rev. W. Gaskell, and Mr. Fairbairn, C.E.

In a speech of considerable length, Sir John expounded his views on the subject of education in England (which were the same as those he has frequently uttered in the House of Commons), and quoted statistics exhibiting the wide diffusion of ignorance. "Gentlemen," he proceeded, "in compliance with your request, I have stated to you what I consider to be the state of education in England is in. I utterly reject the idea, although I respect the men who say so, that our progress is what it ought to be. There are, I believe, three changes which are indispensable to or another, what is called the half-time system should be adopted, so as to be in use for all classes in this country, and not to be limited, as it now is, to factories or establishments of one kind. Secondly, we must have a better, more complete, and more perfect organization. Thirdly, we must have a larger and more certain supply of money."

On Wednesday, Sir John Pakington visited the Model Secular School at Manchester, and on the same day also the School for Out-door Pauper Children. A conference afterwards took place between the hon. baronet and the principal gentlemen connected with the rival schemes of education originating in Manchester. Several points in favour of establishing schools, supported by local rates, in which the religious teaching shall be given at separate hours, parents who object to that species of tuition being at liberty to withdraw their children at the time when it is imparted.

LORD RAVENSWORTH AND THE BLAYDON INSTITUTE.

WITH reference to Lord Ravensworth's attack on the Blaydon Institute, Mr. J. Cowen, jun., secretary of that society, writes to the *Times* to deny that the body with which he is connected is essentially 'infidel.' He submits a list of the periodicals taken in at the reading-room and among these the one most likely to provoke his lordship's wrath appears to be our own journal. The alleged 'immoral' books are—"The Positive Philosophy of Auguste Comte," by Harriet Martineau, and Voltaire's "Philosophical Dictionary." The lecture-hall is let on Sundays to the Wesleyan Reformed Methodists, who preach there, and hold a Sunday School. A public unsectarian day-school is also held there during the week. At night the room is used for lectures, concerts, &c. The institution is purely educational, and there is no theological, or anti-theological test for admission. Any person is allowed to lay on the table of the reading-room any publication which is not of an immoral character; and this permission has been taken advantage of both by the orthodox and the heretical. On one occasion, the lecture-hall was let to some orthodox gentlemen for the purpose of supporting their views; and it was afterwards let to some heterodox gentlemen with a view to supporting theirs. In short, the institution appears to have been conducted in the most impartial manner, and its conductors seem to be absolutely neutral. "No polemical lectures," says Mr. Cowen, "are delivered under the auspices of the institution." The secretary concludes with a little bit of advice to Lord Ravensworth:—"I would respectfully suggest to him that, when he again ventures to recommend books to working men, he selects some lighter writer on morals than Paley, and not an exploded commentator on law like Blackstone, for his commendation."

The name of Mr. Cowen must be well known to a large number of our readers. Mr. Cowen is a leader of the most liberal party in Newcastle and the district around, and he has been active in the establishment of the Blaydon News-room and Literary Institution. This association is a 'Mechanics' Institution in fact as well as in name. It possesses a large and convenient building, which is freehold property; and it has expended 900*l.* upon the establishment during the last few years. The building contains an excellent and even elegant lecture-hall, capable of holding five hundred people, a comfortable reading-room and library, and a class-room. Annexed to it are a cottage for an attendant, and a spacious playground for the school.

OBITUARY.

LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER FORSYTH PARR, one of our naval officers at the Nile and Trafalgar, who has been to the discredit of the authorities a lieutenant for fifty years, died on the 8th inst. of paralysis, at the age of seventy, at Haslar Hospital, with which he was officially connected.

PRINCE LEININGEN, the half-brother of the Queen of England, died on the morning of Thursday week, Wald Leiningen, in the fiftieth year of his age.

MR. DAVID BOGUE.—We regret to have to announce the sudden death of Mr. Bogue, the publisher of the street, in the forty-sixth year of his age. His name is associated with many excellent works, both in the way of light reading and of more important branches of literature. In his cheap reprints of standard books he aided the cause of education; and his death will be regretted by all who were acquainted with him.

STATE OF TRADE.

The accounts from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday, continue to show great steadiness in every quarter, although the rate of discount now causes all parties to confine their operations as much as possible to the requirements of the moment. At Manchester there has been a moderate extent of business, and stocks are sufficiently low to prevent any permanent depression. The Birmingham advices describe little alteration in the iron-market, but such as is noticeable is rather in the direction of improvement. In the general trades of the place there is satisfactory employment, and in some branches considerable activity. A Mr. Johnson, of Wordesley Works, has suspended, with liabilities for 25,000*l.*, and has proposed an unsecured composition of 12*s.* 6*d.*, running over two years. The arrangements in connexion with the liquidation of Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co. are in regular progress, and their works are going forward as usual. At Nottingham, the hosiery demand has been good, at full prices. The business in the woollen districts has been equal to a full average, and the Irish linen-markets are without any material change.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London during the same week there has been increased activity. The number of ships reported inward was 229, being 53 more than in the previous week. These included 3 with cargoes of sugar, 12 with cargoes of fruit, and the very large number of 67 laden with grain and flour. The total number of vessels cleared outward was 128, showing a decrease of 9, those in ballast being 13.—*Ibid.*

A petition was presented last Saturday, before Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, on behalf of Mr. Wallis, a shareholder in the Newcastle Commercial Banking Company, praying that it might be wound up under the order of the court. The purchase of this concern by James Sallier, and by Messrs. Kennedy and Law, and its subsequent connexion with the Tipperary Bank, will be fresh in the recollection of our readers. After considerable discussion, the Vice-Chancellor ordered, by consent, that the petition stand over until the second petition-day, next Hilary Term.

Some correspondence between Mr. R. P. Hardinge and Mr. James Wyld, with reference to the affairs of the British Bank has been published. On the 13th instant, Mr. Hardinge writes to Mr. Wyld:—"I beg to inform you, as the chairman of the Committee of Depositors, that I was yesterday in a position to declare a dividend at the rate of 4*s.* in the pound upon the debts proved in this matter (amounting to upwards of 553,000*l.*), and that the payment of such dividend is delayed only by the proceedings in bankruptcy, which you are supporting." To this, Mr. Wyld rejoins, under date, November 14th:—"In reply to your letter, I beg to inform you that your statement that the payment of the dividend is delayed by the proceedings in bankruptcy, which I and the other members of the Committee of Depositors are supporting, is not true. The Committee of Depositors saw from the commencement that the interest of the creditors would be best consulted by upholding the bankruptcy, because they could thereby obtain a speedy and equal distribution of the available assets amongst the creditors, at a cost infinitely less than the enormous expense of the Court of Chancery, to say nothing of its delays. If you consent to the funds being handed over to the official assignee, a dividend will be made under the bankruptcy within three weeks." Further on, Mr. Wyld says:—"If you had strictly confined yourself to the legitimate means of protecting your own personal interest, I should have less to complain of; but when I find that you and your advisers have urged the directors to appeal against the confirmation of the bankruptcy by the commissioners, and have actually applied to the Vice-Chancellor's clerk for leave to enable them to do so at the expense of the estate, although you were informed by the solicitor of the bank that they did not wish to do so, you cannot be surprised that I should express my unmitigated indignation that you utterly disregard the interests of the creditors, and are guilty of the hypocrisy of pretending to benefit them, whilst you are doing all in your power to create and prolong litigation, and then, having yourself been the cause of locking up the money of the creditors, you seek to make them believe that the delay is caused by the proceedings in bankruptcy. You know that is untrue. You say in your letter that you are ready to divide the money in the bank amongst the depositors. Allow me to ask if you have yet obtained the authority of the Vice-Chancellor to part with a shilling of that money, and whether there is any portion of it under your own control? You know that the Bank of England has refused to allow the money to be drawn out except upon the authority and signature of the Vice-Chancellor himself, the amount having been lodged in his name and your own. And yet you have dared to mock the creditors, by holding out to them that you are ready to divide the money. The assignees are also ready to divide the money immediately, unless you prevent them. There may be some excuse for your zeal in the great stake for which you are playing, as I find that according to the Act of Parliament, your remuneration upon 600,000*l.* would be no less than 21,000*l.*, besides the expenses of your clerks and others, which cannot be estimated at less than 5000*l.* more; but you will by-

and-by be made also to remember that you are playing with the stake of starving families, ruined tradesmen, and defrauded creditors; and for what? For per centages and costs; and public opinion, and not myself, will hurl upon you and your advisers the bolts of its well-merited indignation."

Mr. Wyld appeared in the Vice-Chancellor's court on Tuesday, at the head of a deputation from the creditors of the Royal British Bank, for the purpose of presenting a memorial to his Honour, praying that he would give speedy judgment in the case. The Vice-Chancellor refused to receive the statement, it being *ex parte*, and denied that there was any delay, as he could not give a rash judgment on so important a case.

LOVE AND SUICIDE.

A YOUNG servant girl, named Caroline Hobbs, has poisoned herself under very melancholy circumstances. From the evidence given at the inquest, it appeared that she had formerly been in the service of a gentleman in Burlington-gardens, by whose wife she was greatly esteemed. A connexion between her and some young man, a former acquaintance, arose, which ended in her seduction. In order to hide her shame, she left her situation, and took lodgings in the house of a Mr. Maskell, in Augusta-street, Regent's Park. As she was a very well-conducted young woman, Mrs. Maskell became interested in her. She had no visitor of any kind, except an elder sister, during the time she lodged there. On the morning of Tuesday week, between nine and ten o'clock, this sister was with her, and Caroline was very low in spirits, and said she could "never live separated from him" (her seducer). She went out afterwards, and returned at half-past eleven o'clock, when she cooked some beefsteak and ate a portion. About two hours after this, she was found to have poisoned herself in her room. Two phials—one labelled "Laudanum," the other, "Essential Oil of Bitter Almonds"—were found on a table, together with a wine-glass which had been recently used. She was still living, but died about two hours afterwards in University College Hospital. She had apparently taken both poisons, and the one seems to have retarded the action of the other.

Shortly before she swallowed the poisons, she wrote two letters, addressed to her mother and Mrs. Maskell. The letter to Mrs. Maskell said:—"I am greatly obliged to you for your kindness to me since I have been with you. God will reward you and your children. If you will go to my mother at 6, Polygon, Clarendon-square, she will tell you what to do with me. I have been driven to despair. My sister will be up at five o'clock." The letter to her mother began by saying that her case was a fearful one, "for you don't know half my sufferings. . . . Don't fret for me; I will go before and be ready to receive you. Give my love to my father and brother, and I hope they will be good to you. I hope my poor dear sister will be well provided for. I beg you will not scold my dear Harry; it is not his fault, and I love every hair of his head. Write to him, and he will pay my funeral expenses. Pray don't wrong him for my sake. Don't scold him. I could not die happy if I thought you would do so. My dear Jane (her sister) will give me love to Mrs. —, and tell her all about it. . . . I am not yet nineteen years of age, and don't forget my birthday (the 26th of December). Tell my Harry I love him, and can't bear to be separated from him." She then alludes to some one who has spoken against her to a former employer, but does not intend to retaliate, as it would "do her no good," and she would "not hurt a hair of anybody's head but her own." She thus concludes:—"I have put all my things right for you to lay me out in, which you will see, and I have sent you my likeness. I have only my clothes to leave you; I wish I had more. Good bye! God bless you!—Your affectionate daughter,—CAROLINE."

The reading of these letters caused great emotion on the part of all who were present, and the young woman's sister fainted away. A simple verdict of "Death from swallowing poison" was returned.

STARVATION OF A FAMILY.

CONSIDERABLE horror has been created in Marylebone by the discovery, in a house in Walmer-place, Crawford-street, of a whole family, comprising a mother and four children, in a state of utter nudity, and dying from starvation. The facts would not perhaps have then come to light had not some persons occupying the ground-floor of the house, and who believed themselves to be its only tenants, seen one day by chance a little naked and wretched-looking boy run hastily down the stairs into the yard, pick up a few crumbs of bread, and eat them. One of the lodgers (a woman) told her husband, who was at his tea, and the child was brought in and received some bread, for which he evidently craved. Having told the man and his wife that he had a mother and sisters up-stairs, they went to the first-floor back room, on entering which, they beheld stretched on an old and dirty mattress, the emaciated and inanimate body of a middle-aged woman, while, in a corner of the room lay three naked and famished children huddled together. The eldest girl was quite doubled up, her head leaning on her feet. There was not an article of furniture in the room except the mattress already mentioned, and no clothes of any kind were to be seen. The relieving

officer and inspector of the poor were immediately sent for; and, shortly after their arrival, the aid of the parish surgeon was obtained. The children were then sent to the workhouse infirmary, while the surgeon applied strong stimulants to the mother, and tried all in his power to rally her, remaining by her side for considerably upwards of an hour, and endeavouring to restore animation, but in vain. She was afterwards removed to the infirmary, where, notwithstanding every effort that was made to save her, she gradually sank, and died the following day. The children are doing well, with the exception of the two eldest, who still remain in a precarious condition.

The whole family had been previously inmates of the workhouse which the mother had voluntarily left in September last. She had been supplied by the parish officers with bread, meat, tea and sugar, money, and numerous household conveniences, at the time of her dismissal, and she had never applied for relief or re-admission. When first discovered, the children said that they had had nothing to eat for five days, and the eldest girl stated that she had lately been compelled to sell all her clothes with the exception of an old black skirt, to buy food for herself and the others.

One of the children, a girl ten years old, was examined at the inquest on Monday. She said that "her father was a carpenter, and sometimes brought them money for food. Her mother did not get tipsy, but had complained for a long while of pains in the head. Herself and her sisters and little brother had cried to her mother for bread, but her mother had not spoken a word for a fortnight before they were found. When found on the Thursday, they had not had any food since the Monday before. Her eldest sister got that. Her mother would not go to the workhouse, because she said she had no clothes." From the evidence of the workhouse surgeon, who made a *post mortem* examination of the woman, it appeared that her brain was diseased. A tumour, about the size of a walnut, was found on the third ventricle at the base of the brain.

The inquiry terminated in a verdict of "Natural Death."

THE GREAT BULLION ROBBERY.

A FURTHER examination of Pierce and Burgess, the two men charged with participation in the great robbery of gold on the South-Eastern Railway, took place before the Lord Mayor on Monday, when the evidence of Agar, the convict approver, was continued. He stated that one hundred ounces of the bar gold were disposed of before the rest was melted. "We took the bar into the washhouse," he said, "and cut it off with a chisel and a heavy hammer. We took it off a long bar of Australian gold. It took us about fifteen minutes to cut it off. The gold was very tough and very hard. The hammer I had at the time was too light, and Pierce bought a heavier one at a toolmaker's named Buck in the Tottenham-court-road. Fanny Kay was in the house at the time the hundred ounces were cut from the bar. The windows were whitened so that nobody could see what we were doing in the washhouse. Fanny Kay knocked at the door several times for a saucepan and other things, which we handed out to her; but we did not let her in, and she did not know what we were doing. Pierce sold the hundred ounces at 3*l.* per ounce, and brought back the 300*l.*, and I took possession of it. The remainder of the gold was then melted by Pierce and myself. We first of all cut the gold into small pieces. We then took the stove out of the grate in the back room on the first floor and built a furnace. I told Pierce I should want some firebricks, as a strong heat would be required in the process of melting, and he purchased four firebricks and brought them to my house in a large canvas bag in a cart." Mr. Bodkin here showed a firebrick to Agar, who continued:—"The brick shown to me is one of those which we used in the furnace. That (pointing to the side of the brick) was the side of the brick next the fire." Some particles of gold were still sticking to the bricks. Agar afterwards went on:—"We used charcoal and coke for the melting, and we procured it at a place in St. John's-street, Wilderness-row. We melted the gold in five or six crucibles, which Pierce and I bought in St. John's-square, Clerkenwell. We were engaged three or four days in the melting. Fanny Kay was in the house on some occasions while this operation was going on, but on one occasion I sent her away to see her child. Pierce used to come in the morning and go away in the evening. We never admitted Fanny Kay into the room where we were melting. The action of the furnace created a very great heat. Fanny Kay made the remark that the place was very hot, and that we appeared to be in a great perspiration, and she wanted to know what we were doing. The bricks got so hot on one occasion that we were afraid the house would catch fire, and we were obliged to extinguish it in order that the bricks might get cool. Eventually we succeeded in melting the whole of the gold. During the process, however, an accident occurred to one of the crucibles. In lifting it out of the fire, the bit of the pot of which the tongs had hold broke off, and the crucible fell, part of the liquid gold falling into a tub of water, and part running over the floor, which it burnt. We melted the gold into bars weighing about one hundred ounces each. The bars were then placed in my trunk in the bedroom, where they remained for some little

time. We then removed them to Pierce's house in Crown-terrace, Hampstead-road. They were taken in a cart which Pierce hired, and which he afterwards took home."

Some time afterwards, Agar quarrelled with Fanny Kay, and went to live with Pierce at Kilburn, and a portion of the gold was buried in a hole in the pantry. In about three weeks subsequently to this, Agar was arrested on the charge of forgery of which he has been found guilty. Some of the bars of gold had been previously sold at the rate of 3*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*. an ounce, to a man named Sward, professing to be a barrister, but in reality a pigeon-fancier, and, as Mr. Bodkin observed, and Agar assented to, amidst much laughter, a gold-fancier. About 2300*l*. worth was sold in this way by Agar. After his arrest, the money he had in the Bank was taken out, and Mr. Wontner (his counsel, and now appearing for Pierce) received it. This sum (which amounted to 3000*l*.) was brought to him when he was in Newgate. "The money," continued Agar, "was given to Pierce, with the understanding that he was to reinvest it for my child, which he has never done. It was to be disposed of for the benefit of my child and Fanny Kay. 2500*l*. was the amount that was given back to Pierce, as Mr. Wontner informed me. I never saw Pierce after my arrest till I saw him at the bar of this court. I received some letters from him, the two last of which I gave to Mr. Rees. He wrote to me when I was at Pentonville, and sent me two books and the portrait of my child when I was at Portland." Mr. Wontner subsequently stated that Pierce invested the 2500*l*. in Turkish bonds, and that those bonds are now in safe custody.

In cross-examination by Mr. Lewis (counsel for Burgess), Agar fully admitted his character, and that he had received the proceeds of forgery probably four or five times. He said, in answer to a question, that he knew a man named Nash; and, on being asked if that person had anything to do with forged cheques, he answered, "That has nothing to do with this case. I have acknowledged my character. I have told you that I have been connected with several forgeries, but I do not think this person named Nash has anything to do with the case." He refused to answer several other questions of a similar nature which were put to him.

Fanny Bolan Kay was then examined. She is a young woman, about twenty-five years old, with an intelligent countenance; and the moment she entered she shook hands with great apparent cordiality with Agar. She said that she was formerly an attendant at the Tunbridge station of the South-Eastern Railway, but was dismissed, partly because she was "acquainted with the young men there." She then went to live with Agar. The bulk of her testimony was descriptive of the evidences of melting, &c., which she had observed at Agar's house, while being sedulously kept ignorant as to the cause. On one occasion she peeped in at the door of the room where they were at work, and saw an unusually bright fire; but they instantly shut the door against her. On asking them what they were doing, they replied, "Leathern apron-weaving," which she believed to be a cant expression. After the arrest of Agar, she went for a time to live with Pierce; but he deserted her. She then called on him one day, to get her child's clothes, and he ill-used her. Mr. Lewis wished her to give her address; but Mr. Bodkin and the Lord Mayor objected, saying it would defeat the ends of justice. A sharp discussion then ensued between Mr. Bodkin and Mr. Lewis, the latter observing that he should watch the young woman to her home, and complaining that he was treated unfairly.

Ultimately, the case was adjourned to next Monday, the proceedings having occupied five hours.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

SHIP ON FIRE.—The bark Lee, of 376 tons, lying in St. George's Dock, Liverpool, has been somewhat damaged by a fire which broke out last Saturday night. She was quite empty at the time, and the flames were soon subdued by the water which was brought to bear on her, so that the result has not been very disastrous.

INCREASE OF PAY TO HOSPITAL SERGEANTS.—Lord Panmure has issued a Royal warrant, augmenting the daily pay of regimental hospital-sergeants to two shillings, and in the case of those who have served seven years, to two shillings and sixpence.

AN ABANDONED SHIP ON THE GUDLER SANDS.—A small Danish vessel, brigantine rigged, of 130 tons burthen, laden with a cargo of grain, in bulk, from St. Petersburg for London, has been brought into Whitstable by the crew of the smack Prosperous, of this port, Captain Bell. She was found a derelict on the Gudler Sands, having been abandoned by her crew. Her rudder was gone, and it was believed that the crew had taken to the galley-boat, and then forsaken the vessel. Some time after the salvors had boarded her, they found the dead body of the captain (as they supposed) in a bunk in the after cabin. It was carefully packed, as if to prevent its rolling, and blood was oozing from the mouth, though it was the impression of a medical gentleman present (Mr. Williams) that the individual must have been dead some days. No marks of violence were discovered. An inquest has been held, ending in an open verdict.

STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION ON THE MERSEY.—The boiler

of the steam tug Iron King has burst while the vessel was in the Mersey. One man was killed, and two others (all employed about the engine) were severely scalded. The coroner's jury has returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," coupled with an opinion that the boiler was one of improper construction.

THE LOSS OF THE STEAMER TAY.—The report of Mr. Traill, the magistrate appointed to inquire into the loss of the steamer Tay, was presented to the Board of Trade last Saturday morning. He attributes the loss of the ship to the extraordinary current which retarded her progress after leaving Vera Cruz, and not to any wrongful act or default of Captain Strutt. The conduct of the captain during the disaster was marked by judgment, skill, and self-possession. The report, however, speaks in terms of strong disapproval of the practice on board the Tay of not using the log. Captain Robertson, R. N., the nautical assessor, concurs in the opinion expressed by Mr. Traill.

ARRIVAL OF THE JAMES BAINES.—This ship, which has been so long on her voyage home from Australia that fears were entertained respecting her safety, has arrived off the coast.

A MYSTERIOUS TRAGEDY.

MR. GEORGE LITTLE, the cashier at the Dublin terminus of the Midland Great Western Railway, had not arrived at his office on the morning of Friday week by his usual hour, ten o'clock, and it was remembered that he had not been seen since half-past five on the previous evening. His office was locked, and he always kept the key in his own possession. The clerks, therefore, waited for some time, hoping that he might appear; but at twelve o'clock, suspicions being then entertained that he might have committed some dishonesty and fled, the door of the office was broken open, and a horrible sight was revealed. The body of Mr. Little was found lying face downwards, in a pool of blood, and it was discovered that the throat was cut as by a single gash, which, however, was of so fearful a nature that the head was nearly off. As soon as the clerks were sufficiently composed to make an investigation, it was found that the accounts were completely correct; and a considerable amount of cash, in notes and silver—some of the latter made up in cartridges—was scattered about the room. The left hand of the corpse was thickly clotted with blood; the right hand was but slightly stained. Further examination showed severe fractures of the skull and a great number of other wounds. But the instrument by which death was inflicted was nowhere discoverable. The only weapon in the room was a small office-knife, which lay on the table, and this was quite clean. Near it, however, lay a towel, on which some sharp and bloody instrument had manifestly been wiped, as it was marked with blood and cut in several places. The window (which opens upon the interior of the station) was closed, and the key of the door could not be found. The medical gentleman who was called in conjectured that life had been extinct about twenty hours; he was also of opinion that death must have ensued almost instantaneously, and that the wound could not have been inflicted by the office-knife. About 300*l*. are said to be missing. Mr. Little, who was forty years of age, and who had been connected with the company for the last four years, was highly respected. He is described as a man of a melancholy mind, belonging to the sect of Derbyites, and having rather gloomy religious ideas. The inquest has terminated in a verdict of "Wilful Murder against some person or persons unknown."

Some further details are contained in a communication from Dublin published in the London daily papers. It is there stated that it would appear from a careful examination of the cashier's room that the concealment of a person from the occupant of the room was totally impossible, and that, further, Mr. Little was at his table, or in the neighbourhood of it, when the assassination took place; for the marks remaining go to show that every act, so far as can be conjectured, was committed within a circle of from four to five feet in diameter. If this be so, the only way of accounting for the appearance of the murderer in the room is by supposing that, having entered the terminus by a passage leading from the platform at its west side, he ascended the stairs, and, lurking close by, awaited an opportunity of finding the coast clear, and seeing that the door was not then locked, opened it quietly, and so as not to attract attention. The hair of Mr. Little seems to have been torn by handfuls from the head and strewn about the floor. On leaving the room, and locking the door behind him, the murderer probably descended by the principal staircase to the basement story, where he would appear to have made an endeavour to retreat by the same door, opening on the passage to the platform by which he had entered, for on the door-post a fresh deposit of blood has been discovered, as if a person, pushing against the door with the sleeve of his coat or his hand, either having blood upon them, had pressed against it. The piece of the post on which this is observable has been cut off and removed by the police officers. Foiled in his attempt to obtain egress in this way, he seems to have proceeded to a window opening from the entrance half upon the platform, and having raised this, to have descended the five or six feet which intervened between the sill and the ground, for on the lower stonework of the window there are to be

seen, marked in the dusty deposits, a hand, the scumpling of a shoe, and the evident appearance of a coat-hat having brushed across it. As to any further acts of the murderer, nothing is known.

A hammer has been accidentally discovered in the canal in front of the terminus by two gentlemen who were standing by. Several human hairs were still attached to it; and there is no doubt that it is the instrument with which Mr. Little's skull was fractured. The services of Inspector Field, of London, have been engaged, and the Crown has offered a reward.

Sectarianism never sleeps, but is always ready to turn the most revolting and fearful subjects into food for its morbid appetite. The Dublin Protestant Association, on Monday night, entered into a discussion on the murder of Mr. Little, and then converted the event into religious 'capital' after this fashion:—They passed a resolution, imploring God "not to lay the shedding of that innocent blood to the charge of the country," and that He will withhold from removing His preventing grace, "because that our rulers, in their blind obstinacy, have carried out a policy for the last quarter of a century calculated to impede the course of God's truth in the land, to darken the hearts of men, and propagate a spirit of contempt for all laws, divine and social, throughout society in general."

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

AN inquest has been held on the bodies of the persons killed in the collision on the Newport and Hereford Railway. The evidence of Nathaniel Sargent, a fireman employed by the company, created considerable surprise. He stated that "he had been put to drive the express train on the day of the collision, because there was no one else. He had only driven a train three times before. At Abergavenny, on Wednesday, he discovered that the leading spring of the engine, on the left hand side, was lost. He did not tell the station master. He told the guard, who laughed, and blew his whistle for witness to go on. The engine ran off the line at Nantyderry. Witness did not think it dangerous to run an express with a broken spring. They had done it several times. Two engines were supplied with springs the previous day, because they were afraid to send them out, on account of the accident. The weight of the engine would fall on the axle-box when the spring was gone. He could not say the engine ran off in consequence of the broken spring. It might be the road and that together. The outside rail of the curve did not cut enough. Henry Vaincoat, guard, told him the rail had been raised since the accident. Witness was certain the rail had been raised. No one ever examined witness as to his capacity for driving. Witness only received 2*h*. a week. Drivers got 7*s*. and 7*s*. 6*d*. a day." The inquest is adjourned.

Mr. Horsman, M.P., chief secretary of Ireland, was with an accident last Saturday while hunting. Though a first-rate rider, he was thrown, and the horse being tired, rolled over him heavily. He was severely injured, but is doing well.

A fearful collision has taken place in Ireland. The Dublin day mail, *via* Kilkenny, ran into a ballast train. Six people are supposed to have been killed, and several severely injured.

A young man has been killed at Spence's Mill, Bradford, owing to great recklessness on his part. Part of the machinery is covered by a sort of box, which turns on hinges, and is not fastened down. The youth opened this box, while the machine was revolving, and endeavoured to thrust in some of the wool. But his hand was caught; his arm was gradually drawn in, and pinned by the jagged teeth of a part of the machinery called the 'devil'; his body followed, and, before the engine could be stopped, the arm, and one side of the head and face, were horribly mangled. He was taken out insensible, and died the next day in the infirmary.

A youth employed at some colour works at Deptford Creek fell into a tank of boiling water last Saturday afternoon, and was drawn out by his father and other workmen. He was removed to the Dreadnought Hospital Ship, but expired in the course of four hours. An inquest having been held, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," the coroner at the same time recommending that proper protection should be afforded in future, by having the tank covered.

Three lives were lost, during a fog on Monday night in the canal at Hackney Wick, near the North London Railway arch.

Lady Stafford, wife of the present Lord Stafford, was cousin to the Duke of Norfolk, was found dead in her bed on Thursday morning at Costessey Park, near Norwich. Her ladyship had suffered recently from the rupture of a blood-vessel, but was believed to be returning to convalescence.

A train on the Barnsley branch of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway dashed into a siding near Penistone, and came into collision with several loaded coal waggons. Several of the passengers, as well as the guard and fireman, were severely injured. Amongst the former was Mr. Henry Russell, the singer, who received a contusion on the forehead. The damage done to the engine, carriages, and waggons is estimated at nearly 1,000*l*. The accident was caused by the points being left open.

A fatal catastrophe has occurred on the Western Valley

Railway. On Wednesday afternoon, the pilot-engine with the passenger-train left Ebbw Vale at the usual hour. On its arrival at Aberbeig Junction (where there are different sidings, besides the points of junction with the Blaen line), the engine sprang off the rail at the part where the two trains are usually amalgamated, and, snapping the coupling-chain, went over the embankment, between thirty and forty feet high. In its descent, it made numerous summersets until it came to the bottom, exactly beside Penyvan Colliery Bridge. John Richards, the stoker, fell under the engine, and was almost instantaneously killed. The driver, John Williams, only received some bruises.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

THE FRAUDS ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Since our last issue, several additional details connected with the forgeries of Leopold Redpath have been published. On quitting the offices of the company when he found that a discovery of his acts was imminent, Redpath went to Paris, where he arrived on the night of Tuesday week, or the following morning. He then took up his residence at the Windsor Hotel, Rue Rivoli, kept by M. Fleury, where he was well known. When there, some telegraphic messages—one of which was intercepted by the police authorities—passed between him and his friends in London, and he left the hotel in Paris on the night of Thursday week, a few hours before Mr. Williams, the inspector of the Great Northern Railway, who had been despatched there with a warrant for his apprehension, arrived in the French capital.

Mr. Williams, who was accompanied by Inspector Saunders, a detective, and a good linguist, started for Paris on Wednesday week, in pursuit of Mr. Redpath, but, being detained all that night at Dover by the state of the sea, they did not reach Paris until the following night, so that the fugitive and his pursuers crossed each other between London and Paris. Inspector Williams has obtained possession of a telegraphic message and some letters, the latter in the handwriting of Redpath, and addressed to Kent, a clerk in his office, and now also in custody, tending to show complicity between the two. He apprehended Kent on Tuesday week, at a house in Gloucester-road, Seven Sisters-road, to which he had changed his residence from Castle-terrace, Camden-town, where he lived until very recently. On being taken into custody, Kent expressed great indignation, and demanded on what authority and for what reason it was done. Inspector Williams searched him, and found, among other papers, a telegraphic message in his pocket, addressed to M. Fleury, hotel-keeper, Paris, to the following effect:—"Is Redpath with you? If he is, tell him he must communicate with me immediately. Telegraph back." Williams asked him if he had sent it. He said, "No." He was asked "Why?" when he declined to say, for reasons of his own. He then gave Williams a key which, he said, would open his drawer, and there other keys would be found. In that drawer Williams discovered certain letters, some of which were written by Redpath. One of them was as follows:—"I enclose you 30*l*. You need not be under any apprehension. If the statement is pressed for, say Monday; but I believe you will not be troubled.—Yours, &c., LEOPOLD REDPATH." The second:—"If anything should turn up about the dividend to Walland—it was sent. Do as you would if any others were missing.—Truly yours, LEOPOLD REDPATH." The other ran thus:—"Dear Charles,—If Oakley says anything about the analysis of the dividends, do not do anything in it.—Truly yours, LEOPOLD REDPATH."

Kent, like Redpath, stands remanded till a future day. It appears (say the daily papers) from circumstances which have transpired since his apprehension, that Redpath must have been carrying on his frauds for a considerable time, as his style of living for some years past has excited the attention of the tradesmen in the vicinity of Chester-terrace with whom he had dealings, and who received payment for their goods, no matter how extravagant they might be, with the greatest promptitude. There was generally a feeling of surprise at Redpath's sudden elevation in the world, because he was well known to the neighbourhood of Regent's Park, having resided in the locality for many years. About twelve years ago, he followed the occupation of a lawyer's clerk, and occupied obscure apartments in Cumberland-market, whilst his wife, who is described as an amiable and lady-like woman, resided as companion to an elderly lady named Simmons, at No. 3, Cumberland-place. At this period, Redpath was exceedingly mean in his attire, and it was believed that his income was of a very limited character. He subsequently, however, improved in his circumstances, and took lodgings at 43, Upper Albany-street. Shortly after obtaining his appointment as railway clerk, he became the tenant of the house No. 2, Park Village, West. From that period, his style of living began to improve, until he took the mansion, 27, Chester-terrace, at a rental of 200*l*. per annum, a sum, including taxes, &c., which exceeded the amount of the salary derived from his Great Northern Railway clerkship. Soon after taking the mansion at Chester-terrace, he bought a

carriage; and, in addition to an establishment of five or six female domestic servants, he kept a coachman, a groom, a butler, and a footman. Redpath lived altogether in the highest and most luxurious style, and, about three years ago, the executors of the late Mr. Trevizant, a gentleman who resided in his own house, No. 31, Chester-terrace, upon his demise put up the house for sale, and it was bought by Redpath at a sum between 3000*l*. and 4000*l*. He was in the habit of receiving a great deal of company, and he gave parties and dinners of the most expensive character. It mattered not to him whether or not peas were in season, have them he would on his table at a time when they could not be obtained at Covent-garden Market at less than 7*s*. or 8*s*. per quart. The same remark applies to every other luxury. His house was gorgeously furnished, and his munificence and generosity (with other people's money) were the talk of the entire neighbourhood. As another instance of Redpath's extravagance, it may be mentioned that it was his practice, prior to leaving home, every morning to have his hair dressed by a perruquier from Strahern's, in Princess-street, Hanover-square. Either the head of that establishment, or some one deputed by him, arrived at 27, Chester-terrace every morning in a cab, which was usually kept at the door for about an hour, whilst the tonsor was performing his operations. It was not until the month of August or September last year that Redpath effected the purchase of the freehold villa at Weybridge, and he has been out of town staying there, and coming to town for business purposes. The price paid for the estate, it is said, was 30,000*l*. Here he maintained a fisherman and (though for what purpose is hardly apparent) a private courier. Altogether, he seems to have been the most sumptuous and Imperial of swindlers.

Fresh frauds to an enormous extent were discovered. Since the examination of the books commenced last Monday week, every day has revealed forgeries of the most startling character, which make it almost a matter of certainty that Redpath's frauds will far outstrip the amount originally stated. It is a fact beyond dispute that the company have been for a long time past paying dividends upon 200,000*l*. of capital, the existence of which they have been unable to trace. Many of the fraudulent entries which have been discovered—unless some clear explanation is given—show a complicity in the transactions on the part of Kent.

It has been ascertained that Redpath fraudulently trafficked in the votes of some of the charitable institutions with which he was connected as governor. It appears that in addition to being a governor of Christ's Hospital, he was an almoner, and one of its committee of management.

ANOTHER FRAUD ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

The charges against Leopold Redpath and his accomplice, Kent, have been followed with startling rapidity by another charge of a similar character preferred against the chief clerk in the accountant's office of the same railway. William Snell, the person in question, was brought before the Clerkenwell magistrate on Thursday morning, when Mr. Thomas Reynolds, the chief accountant, stated that, some months ago, he gave Snell a cheque for 500*l*. drawn by the directors in favour of the Provident Fund. That cheque was not paid into the ordinary account; and Snell afterwards told Mr. Reynolds that he had received a cheque in the City, on his own account, for 502*l*. 10*s*., which, desiring to split up and being late in the day, he paid into the ordinary account of the company. "He then," said Mr. Reynolds, in his evidence, "asked me to sign two cheques which he had drawn, one for 460*l*. and the other for 42*l*. 10*s*. They were taken out of the company's cheque-book. I expressed my displeasure that he should pay money into the account of the company. He said that he was very sorry, and that he regretted it very much, and would never do the like again. Before signing the cheques, I satisfied myself, as far as I could, that the money was paid in. All cheques on the company's drawing account are signed by me. I signed that cheque on the faith of the prisoner's statement that the money had been paid in on the previous day. A few days since I gave directions to Snell to proceed as rapidly as possible in making up the drawing account and bringing it as clear up as possible. He said he would have it done by Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning, finding that it was not done, I called Snell into my private office and complained that the work had not been done. He came towards me, and then turned back and shut the door. He said, 'There is something wrong—I am the defaulter.' I expressed my regret, and asked to what extent. He said a little under 1000*l*. I asked him if the 500*l*. was his own money; when he said, 'No, the 500*l*. was the company's money.' I have ascertained that the cheque was stolen from the cash-box. On examining the docket book, I find that between the 8th and 10th of October two of them have been taken out."

This being the whole of the evidence, the prisoner was remanded.

MURDER OF A CHILD BY HIS FATHER.

A dreadful tragedy, apparently resulting from madness, has occurred at Wokingham, Berkshire. A person

of the name of Charles Forester, who had been recently employed by a lady of the neighbourhood, on the recommendation of the London City Mission Society, to deliver Evangelical lectures and sermons to the rural population, and to distribute tracts among them, has killed his only child, a boy about five years old, by cutting its throat. Forester had been superseded in his missionary work at Wokingham, partly because, although he was very earnest and active, he lacked the necessary amount of intellectual culture, and partly on account of his state of health. Indications of consumption were apparent, and he therefore went up to London, and became a patient in the hospital at Old Brompton. However, he left about three weeks ago, and returned (though not immediately) to Embrook, about a mile from Wokingham, where he found that his wife had opened a small grocer's shop, and was doing well. But this did not prevent his being in very low spirits for some time, and he only rallied a little the day before the murder. On the morning of Friday week, Mrs. Forester, on rising, left her husband and the child in bed together, both asleep. About an hour afterwards Forester came down, passed through the shop, and went out. Some time subsequent to this, Mrs. Forester proceeded up-stairs to see why her child did not come down, and she there found the dead body of the boy lying in the bed with his throat frightfully mangled. An alarm was raised, and several of the neighbours came in.

In the meanwhile, the man went to the house of police sergeant Bostock, who was at that time in bed. On the officer looking out of window, in reply to the knocking, and on asking what was the matter, Forester answered, "I am come to give myself in charge for murdering my little boy." Bostock took him to the station-house, and found that his hands were bloody. He appeared to be very much agitated; the perspiration was pouring down his face, and he exhibited much confusion in answering the questions put to him, and seemed hardly conscious of what he said. Being asked where the boy was, he replied, "I don't know; I have forgot." The police sergeant inquired where he lived; and he pointed in the direction of his house. The razor with which the wound was given was afterwards found in the bed under the legs of the child. On being searched at the station-house, several letters were found on Forester, in one of which, addressed to his brother, he alluded to his own death, and expressed his fears as to who would take care of his little boy afterwards. To the officers he repeatedly exclaimed, "Oh dear, oh dear! I wouldn't mind giving anything to undo what I have done. I loved my little boy, and no one loved him better than I did. I can't think what I did it for, I'm sure."

Forester having been examined before the local magistrate, was committed for trial, and the inquest has terminated in a verdict of "Wilful Murder." There can be little doubt, however, that the act was committed in a sudden fit of insanity.

ACTION FOR A CRIMINAL ASSAULT.—A young woman, named Emma Disborough, has brought an action in the Court of Exchequer against Mr. Holmes, a publican, for a series of assaults on her, ending in her seduction and in the birth of a child. According to the girl's own story, Mr. Holmes, on three separate occasions, effected his purpose in spite of her resistance; and, on her condition becoming known to her mistress, she was turned away. Mr. Holmes then gave her 2*l*., and told her to swear the child upon one of the barnen. Subsequently, on her and her sister applying to him for more money, he threatened to give them both into custody. For the defence, Mr. Holmes swore that he had never been intimate with the girl, and he produced one of the men formerly serving in the bar, who stated that Disborough had been very familiar with the other barman, and that her conduct was extremely light. This witness had since set up in business for himself; and it appeared, on cross-examination, that he had been assisted in starting by Mr. Holmes, that he had proposed to Disborough to marry him, and that he had written a letter to her containing this passage in reference to Mr. Holmes:—"The least he can do is to give you a character, in order to enable you to obtain a situation, and, if he does not, he must put up with the consequences." On the letter being placed in his hands, the witness appeared greatly confused. Mr. Baron Martin said this was the first time a woman had brought a civil action for the kind of offence imputed. The jury found a verdict for the girl, with 20*l*. damages.

DISCHARGED PRISONERS.—In answer to some observations in the *Times*, directed against the efforts recently made in Birmingham to provide occupation for discharged prisoners, Mr. M. D. Hill, the Recorder of Birmingham, addresses to the leading journal a letter defending those efforts, not only out of regard for the prisoners themselves, but in consideration for the safety of society. We have no available means of transportation, states Mr. Hill; therefore, we must do our utmost to find employment at home for men who have been convicts, in order that they may not be driven by desperation into crime. "It is quite true," continues the writer, "that it is contemplated in special cases, for the purpose of meeting special impediments, that a guarantee to a small amount should be offered to a hesitating employer. The sug-

gestion, however, arises out of no theory on the subject. It is but a servile imitation of a course pursued by Thomas Wright, of Manchester, who for forty years has applied his leisure and no small proportion of his substance in placing out discharged prisoners. Mr. Wright has frequently availed himself of the guarantee as a means of accomplishing his object, and his report is that his liabilities have rarely ended in loss. When it is known that during this period Thomas Wright was the foreman of an ironfoundry, labouring twelve hours a day, it may be thought that his leisure was not very abundant; and when it is further known that the income which he derived from his occupation was burdened with the maintenance of eighteen children, it may be concluded that the surplus was not of the magnitude to produce extensive results; yet the fact remains that, single-handed, he has rescued a multitude of poor creatures from desperation, and gained them the opportunity by which they eagerly profited of abandoning for ever the paths of crime."

BURGLARIES.—Henry Jones has been charged at Marylebone with having broken into the house of Mr. Adolphus Mark Madot, Upper Baker-street, and stolen property to the amount of upwards of 60*l*. The son of Mr. Madot detected the man while coming down stairs with a bag in his hand, containing the plunder of which he had possessed himself, and, after a severe struggle on the staircase, he escaped, but was soon afterwards captured, leaving the bag and the property in it behind. He was sent for trial.—Joseph Sewell has been brought up at Clerkenwell, on a charge of burglary at a house in Maiden-lane, Kentish-town. The case excited great interest in a crowded court, in consequence of the numerous burglaries which have taken place in the north part of London, and the insertion of several letters on the subject in the newspapers. For some time past, extra police have been posted in Kentish-town, but to no avail, owing to the houses standing on their own grounds, and to the exposed nature of their backs, there being nothing but fields for a considerable distance. Sewell was met by a policeman in the night, carrying a large bundle. Being questioned as to its contents, he gave an evasive answer, and ultimately made off, but was followed and secured. He was remanded.

GARROTTING.—Another case of violent assault and robbery in the streets was brought before the Southwark magistrate on Monday. Peter Courton, the injured man, who is a gardener employed at Penge Common, stated that on Saturday night he came up to London to see some friends near the Bricklayers' Arms station, in the Kent-road. After leaving them he went down the Borough. The public-houses were then closed, and in passing by the Town-hall, he met Dower (the prisoner) and three other men who asked him whether he wanted anything to drink. He said "Yes;" and they took him to a house in Redcross-court. He gave them a shilling to pay for the liquor, and they entered the house. Feeling some suspicion as to their conduct he got away from the house, and as soon as he did so he was suddenly attacked by four men. Dower seized hold of him by the throat, while the others caught hold of him by the arms, and his pockets were rifled. They so cruelly treated him that he thought they meant murder; but his cries brought a constable to his assistance, when he was released from the ruffians' grasp, and they escaped. However, he followed Dower, and gave him into custody. He was remanded.—At the Lambeth Police-Office, Frederick Travers, a convicted thief, was charged with being concerned with three others not in custody in attempting to strangle, and otherwise violently assaulting, a Mr. John Moore, at midnight, near his house in Pleasant-place, Lambeth. A watch and chain were taken from him, but they were afterwards recovered, and Travers and the others, being alarmed by Mr. Moore's cries, ran away, and Travers was stopped by a policeman. He was committed for trial.

INCENDIARY FIRES.—Between twelve and one o'clock on Sunday morning, a fire was discovered among some corn-stacks in the farm premises of Dr. Mathews, a magistrate for the West Riding, in the village of Hatfield, near Doncaster. The flames spread with great rapidity, and in a short time extended to fourteen stacks, the whole of which were completely destroyed, entailing a loss of 1400*l*. The subsequent discovery of a powder flask on the spot points to the fact of the fire being the work of an incendiary.—An incendiary fire has burst out among some wheat-stacks on the premises of Mr. Sylvester, of Nottingham, and a third has consumed a haystack belonging to Mr. Hart, in the same neighbourhood.

SCOUNDREL OFFICERS.—Three military officers stationed at Canterbury have been misconducting themselves in the streets after Vane Tempest fashion. They were in the company of John Stace, a fruiterer of Devonport; and all four, between eight and nine o'clock last Saturday evening, determined to have "a spree." They accordingly ran through the streets, striking right and left with riding-whips, and injuring several persons, including old men and women. They were at length taken to the station-house by the police. Charges were only made against two of the officers, who were speedily bailed out. On the following morning, only one of the officers appeared before the magistrate, the other having, it is supposed, bribed the witness or witnesses against him. A fine of thirty shillings and costs

was imposed on the one who came forward (Ensign Robert Gibson, 49th Regiment), and also on Stace. The money was paid.

CRUELTY TO A CAT.—A charge of ill-treating a cat has been brought at Marlborough-street against Count Arthur Pavlovani de Guise, formerly a colonel. The cat in question was seated among some shrubs within the railings of Soho-square, and the Count, who had a large Newfoundland dog with him, threw several stones at the cat. He then poked it with a stick, which the cat laid hold of; and the Count pulled the poor creature out by the tail, and set the dog upon it. A crowd collected, and several persons expressed their indignation. A policeman was then sent for, and the scoundrel was given into custody. The cat was so much injured that it was found necessary to kill it. In his defence, the Count stated that, seeing the cat was in danger from the dog, he poked it with his stick, in order to drive it away. The evidence, however, rendered it clear that the dog was purposely set on the cat by its master; and the man was therefore fined twenty shillings and costs. The money was paid.

A WOMAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO POISON HER HUSBAND.—A woman named Rebecca Penrose, the wife of a millwright, working at the Dockyard, Devonport, is in custody on a charge of poisoning her husband. He was ill with diarrhoea in the course of last September, and the wife gave him some liquid, which made him very sick and much worse. On the following morning she expressed some surprise at his being still alive, and exclaimed, "What shall I do? If he has a long illness, I shall be found out." Nothing wrong, however, was suspected, till a woman communicated something a week or two ago to the man (who had recovered); and on this information the wife was arrested. It appears that Penrose has about 125*l*. in the savings bank, and it is stated that the wife conspired with another woman to get possession of 25*l*. of this money. The wife is remanded.

THE MURDER OF A 'GIPSY KING.'—An inquest has been held on the body of the old man, named Stanley, whose death, under suspicious circumstances, we have already noted. His wife, Rhoda Stanley, was examined, and stated that he left her to go to the horse fair, and she never saw him alive again. Almost his last act was to buy a pony for his "poor old woman to ride," as he thought she was getting up in years, and needed help in her wanderings about the country. The witness seemed frantic with grief, as she said her husband "was such a good old man to her." The oater at the inn where Stanley last stopped, saw him standing in the passage in company with a "strange man," who was respectfully dressed. Mr. Haines, surgeon, said that death had been caused by strangulation. There was a dark red band round the neck, which had evidently been produced by the neckcloth being tightly pressed against it. His hands were clinched, and raised as if in self-defence, and there was a heavy frown on the countenance. The inquest was adjourned, as the police are still making inquiries.

KIDNAPPING OF A YOUTH.—Mr. Frederick Stephenson, a gentleman residing in Birmingham, who was accompanied by a ship's broker, waited on Monday at the Thames police-office, to complain of the forcible kidnapping of a youth named John Robert Stephenson, the son of the first named applicant, on board an American ship, the Nathaniel Thompson, now lying in the Victoria Dock. It appeared that Mr. Stephenson's son, having a predilection for the sea service, was bound apprentice to Messrs. Hardy and Co., of Liverpool, on the 21st of August, 1854, and made one voyage in a ship called the Mary Hardy to Calcutta and back to Liverpool, where he arrived on the 12th of September, 1855. On the same evening, he went on shore to see his landlady, a respectable woman, residing in Galton-street, Liverpool, to whom he communicated his intention of visiting his friends and relations before his ship sailed again. No more was heard of him until May last, when he called upon a Mr. Short in Calcutta, and stated that he had been kidnapped and dragged on board the Nathaniel Thompson, an American ship, by main force. He subsequently died in the Calcutta Hospital, owing, as it was feared, to ill usage received on board the Nathaniel Thompson. Mr. Selfe, the magistrate, promised that he would institute an inquiry.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT NEAR BRADFORD.—Considerable dissatisfaction, as our readers already know, has lately been caused among a certain class of loom weavers in Yorkshire, in consequence of the introduction among them of the new system of two-loom weaving. The local authorities at Baildon, near Bradford, the chief seat of the disturbances, therefore swore in above a hundred special constables. This prevented any disturbances in the immediate neighbourhood; but the one-loom weavers without the township still threatened to do harm to those weaving on the new plan. The precaution had been adopted at Mr. Taylor's mill (where a serious riot occurred a week or two ago) of dismissing the two-loom weavers from work earlier than the others; and one evening, about half past five o'clock, ten or twelve of them left their looms to go home to their dwellings at Bradford, three miles distant. They proceeded along the high road until they arrived at a spot where a footpath across the fields from Shipley joins the principal thoroughfare. Here they

were stopped and assaulted by a large band of nearly thirty men armed with hedge-stakes and other weapons. The double-loom weavers, however, managed after a time to escape, with the exception of one of their party, who, having missed his companions during a scuffle, was left behind, when he was immediately pointed out as "another two-loomer," on which all the rioters rushed at him, and after beating him severely with their cudgels, knocked him down, and continued to assault him until he was insensible. They then left, and he was discovered some time afterwards by his companions, who returned to the spot where they had been attacked. They removed him to the Bradford Infirmary, bleeding excessively from several wounds of a very severe kind. He is progressing, however, tolerably favourably. The police of the district are making every endeavour to search out the ruffians.

SUPPOSED MURDERS.—The dead body of a woman has been taken out of the canal in the vicinity of Great Cambridge-street, Hackney-road. From inquiries as to foot by the police, it appears that a girl named Mary Ann Brown, while passing near the towing-path, between nine and ten o'clock, observed a man standing near the water's edge, and at the same time heard a gurgling sound proceeding from the middle of the stream. On her observing to him that he had thrown something into the water, he hastily ran away without answering, and she followed and saw him enter a house in Great Cambridge-street. The woman's body was subsequently dragged out of the canal. About an hour previous to the discovery of the body, the man, who was a carrier and gilder, and husband of the woman, was found lying with his throat cut in one of the rooms of his residence. He was quite dead, and a razor, the blade of which was stained with blood, lay by his side. The man and woman had no family. The lodgers state that they lived unhappily, and that the man kept his wife under necessary. On the evening on which their bodies were found, Mrs. Fenn was heard to say to her husband, "Good-by, Henry," and was seen to leave the house, followed by him. He returned home, however, some afterwards, and put an end to his existence. It would appear that the woman threw herself into the canal, and that the man in vain endeavoured to rescue her.—A young woman, named Lucy Tredwell, in service at the Union Hotel, Worcester, has been found drowned in the Worcester and Birmingham canal. Her throat was cut, and there were marks of violence about her face and in back of her head. There were no signs of violence of another description. She had been missed for about a night, the last that was known of her being that she had executed some errands on which she had been sent, and was apparently returning to the hotel. The police are investigating the facts of the case.

THOMAS STOWELL, THE INFORMER.—This man was tried at the Surrey Sessions on Tuesday on a charge of obtaining, by means of false pretences, the sum of 5*l*. from Mrs. Perry, a landlady in Walworth. He has been known for a long time as one of the "touters" infesting the Lambeth police-court, in the neighbourhood of which he had an office, and acted in the capacity of attorney. Mrs. Perry wanted to obtain a music and dancing license at the Quarter Sessions, and Stowell introduced himself to her as an attorney, capable of getting the license. Believing he could do so, she employed him, and at different times gave him as much as 5*l*. to pay the necessary expenses. It was eventually ascertained that he had not performed his work. He then pretended that he was clerk to Mr. Bingham, an attorney, and that that gentleman had performed the work and taken the money; but this was false. There being former convictions against Stowell, he was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

WHOLESALE SWINDLERS.—A nest of swindlers, doing business on a large scale, has been broken up, and the evil-doers—Carolus Bond, a tall man with bushy whiskers and mustache; Sarah Ann Bond, his wife, a rather good-looking woman; Alfred Fennel, who called himself a barman out of place; and Jemima Fennel, his wife, who acted as servant to Mrs. Bond—have been brought before the Southwark magistrate. Their plan was to order goods, to get them sent to houses in fashionable parts of the town, and then to leave the neighbourhood without payment. Inspector Mackenzie, who had charge of the case, said he understood that they all worked together, and had for some time removed goods they had obtained as soon as they got possession of them. In one instance, they had removed three times in the same day, so close were the police on their track. They furnished their houses splendidly; and Mrs. Bond, in fashionable attire and of ladylike appearance, and the tradesmen were put off their guard. The evidence against her was very strong, but deficient in the case of all the others, who were therefore remanded, and allowed to produce bail. Mrs. Bond was sent to prison, pending further inquiries, without the option of bail; and, in the day, a similar fate befell her husband, against whom a clear case of obtaining bottled stout on false pretences was brought forward.

LORD ERNEST VANE TEMPEST.—Sir Frederick Rogers, on Thursday, applied in the Court of Queen's Bench for a criminal information against Lord Ernest Vane Tempest for an outrage and assault committed on Mr. Ames, a cornet in the Fourth Light Dragoons.

The affair arose out of the recent military scandals which ended in the dismissal from the army of his Lordship. On the evening of the 31st October, Mr. Ames was standing in one of the streets at Brighton, near Dunsell-gardens, talking to a woman, when Lord Ernest Vane Tempest came up, spat in his face, called him a — blackguard and a coward. Mr. Ames said he did not like to create a disturbance in the street, and told Lord Ernest Vane that he would hear of this again. — Lord Campbell directed Sir Frederick Thesiger to take a rule to show cause.

IRELAND.

TIPPERARY BANK.—Notice is given of a bill next session to facilitate the winding up of the Tipperary Bank affairs, by enabling the creditors to compromise with the shareholders or official managers. Leave was obtained on Friday week in the Common Pleas Court, Dublin, by Mr. Vincent Scully, one of the defendants, to put in certain new pleas, one of which is, that by the deed of settlement under which the co-partnership was established, certain powers of transfer were given to each shareholder, and that under these powers Mr. V. Scully was legally entitled to make the transfer of his shares, which he did make in 1855, long before the failure of the bank. Another of the new points calls in question the legality of the Stamp-office return of the bank under which Mr. Scully was held liable.—Mr. Simon Armstrong, one of the original shareholders, and also set down by Messrs. Sadleir as a director, has surrendered to a commission of bankruptcy, and has undergone a private examination.—In the office of the Master in Chancery on Monday, Mr. Charles Henry Edmonds, of London, attended for the purpose of being examined relative to a bill for 2300*l.*, at twenty-one days' date, dated the 28th of January, 1856, drawn in his favour on Glyn, Mills, and Co., and signed by J. W. Kelly for the Tipperary Bank. The bill had passed into the hands of Pease, Liddell, and Co., bankers of Hull, and was dishonoured soon after the failure of the Tipperary Bank. Pease, Liddell, and Co. sued Mr. Edmonds, who was obliged to pay. He is now the holder of the bill. In the course of the examination the disclosure of the facts of Mr. Edmonds rendered it necessary for the Master to direct that the proceedings should be private.

ORDER OF ST. PATRICK.—The vacant ribbon of the Order of St. Patrick has been bestowed on Lord Gough. Mr. JAMES PIM, a gentleman whose name is honourably distinguished as the projector of the Dublin and Kingstown Railway Company, the first line established in Ireland, and the second in the United Kingdom, is just dead.

AMERICA.

The result of the Presidential contest was announced in this country early in the present week. As previously anticipated, Mr. Buchanan has been chosen as the chief magistrate of the United States; but the official account had not been published at the time the last mail left America, the intelligence being communicated by the Associated Press of New York. The six States of New England, namely, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, all gave majorities for Fremont; the three first-named gave very large, and the three last, decisive majorities. Massachusetts alone gave him 66,000 over his opponents. The votes of the States of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware, and New Jersey, were for Buchanan. Maryland and Kentucky voted for Mr. Fillmore. The votes of the other States are not yet known. Some bloodshed attended the struggle in New York, one or two, if not more, people having been shot. The votes of the electoral colleges of the various States are said to be—Buchanan, 174; Fremont, 114; Fillmore, 8.

The American journals announce that, at Boston, on the 3rd inst., Mr. Sumner met with a most flattering reception. Many of the places of business were closed, and he was escorted by a throng of citizens from Brooklyn to Boston, where he was addressed by the venerable Josiah Quincy. The procession then escorted him to the Statehouse, where he was again welcomed in an eloquent speech from the Governor of the State. On rising to reply, Mr. Sumner was hailed with a spontaneous outburst of applause and other manifestations exhibiting the deep sympathy of the crowd present. His personal appearance showed the effect of physical suffering.

Several disasters are, as usual, recorded from various parts of the States. A young lady named Blanchard has been killed, and several persons scalded, by an explosion on board the steamer Bay State, from New York to Fall River. An express train on the Williamsport and Elmira Railroad has been thrown off the track by the breaking of a rail. A baggage-master was killed and several passengers were badly hurt. At South Acton, Massachusetts, a powder mill has exploded and killed two men. The report was heard at a great distance, and was supposed to be the shock of an earthquake.

A duel has been fought a few miles below Richmond, Massachusetts, between Roger A. Pryor, editor of the *Richmond Enquirer*, and Dr. Finney, State Senator, from Accomac county. Dr. Finney was badly wounded in the right hip. The account of a discussion at Accomac between the Doctor and Mr. Curtis, published in the *Enquirer*, was the cause of the duel.

Governor Geary has arrested several of the ringleaders of the marauding parties in the vicinity of Oesawatamie. Upwards of ninety persons stand charged with murder in the first degree.

Great excitement prevails in Harannah, caused by the anticipation of an attack on Vera Cruz. A rising in San Domingo is also expected, with a view to revolutionize that republic. From Mexico we hear of the continued increase of discontent against the existing order of things. The Government troops, however, have gained numerous victories over the revolutionists in different sections of the country. Serious revolutionary movements are in progress at Queretaro. The second officer of the war steamer Deamarcro, after gaining over the crew to his interests, ran away with her and a large quantity of money and goods. The war steamer Guerrero was sent in pursuit.

Mr. Griffith, the British Chargé d'Affaires at Bogota, has suspended diplomatic relations with the Government of New Granada, in consequence of the latter refusing to carry into effect an agreement some time since entered into for the settlement of the claim of a British subject, Mr. James Mackintosh. Mr. Griffith called together the English residents on the 8th ult., and stated to them what had occurred, and that Mr. Mark, the consul, would give them all needful protection during the suspension of diplomatic relations. The British Government, wearied with the repeated instances of breach of faith on the part of the New Granadian Government towards English subjects for many years past, has determined to bring matters to a point by the pressure of a blockade of the coast.

The town of La Paz, Lower California, was almost entirely destroyed by a hurricane on the 16th of October. Few lives were lost; but all the vessels lying in the harbour were driven ashore and wrecked, and the houses which were spared by the wind were washed away by the tide. The gale, which was accompanied by heavy rain, lasted thirty hours.

The New York commercial letters report that in the money-market there was great excitement, owing to many persons having found it necessary to arrange for the heavy payments of the 4th inst. The result was that loans were obtained with greater difficulty than usual, even for three or four days.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The Swiss General Dufour has arrived in Paris, charged by the Federal Council with a mission to the French Government relative to the differences between Neuchâtel and Prussia.

"The French Government is determined to set its face against the Russian railroads. I am informed," says the *Times Paris* correspondent, "that it has been intimated to the semi-official journals that they are not to publish advertisements relating to these railroads. The same journals will probably soon open a rolling fire against the undertaking. The cause of this hostility will be attributed to the fact that the railroads are less with a view to commercial advantages than for strategic purposes."

The *Assemblée Nationale* has the following observations relative to the English alliance:—"We repeat once more that we are partisans of the English alliance, and sincerely desire its maintenance; but the English alliance will never lead us to forget that, at an epoch which is not very remote, in the reign of Louis XVI., the united fleets of France and Spain were mistresses of the Channel, and blockaded the English in their own ports. And as it is not the destiny of States to conclude eternal alliances, and as events, which cannot be anticipated by human wisdom, may produce in the future combinations that have been witnessed in the past, such as a war between France and her neighbours beyond the Channel, we express our hopes that in this contingency the French navy would be enabled, with the assistance of an ally, were that ally even Russia, to counterbalance the power of Great Britain on the sea."

The *Siecle*, the consistent advocate of the English alliance, remarks, in answer to the grounds usually assumed by the advocates of a Russian alliance—viz., that there is greater sympathy between the Governments of France and Russia than between the former and that of England:—"Certainly the French Government, by exceptional laws, which it has not yet revoked, departs from the English traditions in favour of theoretical and practical liberty; but it must not be forgotten that the constitution of 1852 has for express bases the principles of 1789—that is, of the Revolution—and that in the eyes of Europe all the Governments of France which are not legitimate are revolutionary. Now, the Revolution can only find an ally in itself. There lies its only chance of salvation, as the Emperor admitted at St. Helena. The kings smile upon it only in order to deceive it with the greater ease. The Revolution has no other hope than in nations, and in order to reach those nations which are still enslaved it must first lean itself on free nations with sincerity and perseverance."

The destruction of houses still proceeds in Paris, notwithstanding the disastrous effects of the demolition

already carried into effect. We read in the *Times Paris* correspondence:—"The houses comprised between the Rue de Rambuteau and the Rue Grenéta are about to be demolished for the continuation of the Boulevard de Sébastopol. To obtain possession of these houses, the municipality has been obliged to treat with no fewer than three hundred persons, owners or occupiers. Of these, one hundred have accepted the offers which it made; the other two hundred, demanding larger indemnities than it was disposed to grant, appealed to a jury. They were accordingly divided into two batches, one a hundred and eighteen in number, the other eighty-two; and a jury has assembled, under the direction of a judge of the Civil Tribunal, to fix the indemnities to be paid to the first batch. The claimants own or occupy the houses destined for demolition in the Rues Rambuteau, St. Magloire, Quincampoix, St. Denis, Salle au Comte, aux Ours, Neuve Bourg l'Abbé, Bourg l'Abbé, Petit Hurler, and the Impasses des Peintres and Beaufort. The occupiers, chiefly traders, represented in support of their demands that they were subjected to enormous expense by being obliged to remove. A wool-dealer, for example, who occupied premises in the Rue Bourg l'Abbé at 3000 fr. a year, proved that he had been obliged to take others in the Rue St. Bon at 9000 fr. Many of the claimants alleged, too, that, in addition to increased rent, they were subjected to most serious inconvenience by being under the necessity of transferring their places of business from the centre to distant parts of the town. The demands amounted, in the whole, to 1,786,625 fr.; the offers of the municipality to 996,800 fr.; and the jury accorded 1,451,000 fr."

The *Daily News* and *Punch* have again been seized.

MM. Cousin and Legendre, directors of the Napoleon Docks, are in custody at Paris, on a charge of having appropriated to their own use large sums belonging to the company. They carried on a joint-stock bank, the affairs of which were mixed up with those of the docks. The deficit of Cousin and Legendre, as far as has been ascertained, is 6,498,655 francs.

The fatal facility with which supplementary credits to the budget have lately been granted by Imperial decree, reducing the votes of the Corps Législatif to a mere idle form, has at length attracted so much attention that it has been thought necessary to propitiate public opinion by imposing some sort of check upon them. A decree, dated November 10, appears in the *Moniteur*, by which it is ordained that, after January 1, 1857, no supplemental or extraordinary credit shall be granted while the Corps Législatif is not sitting, except by the advice of the Council of State, the Finance Minister having been in every instance first consulted, and countersigning the decree allowing the credit.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent.*

Some of the Paris papers within the last few days have been speaking with remarkable boldness on the subject of the restrictions put upon the press. The *Constitutionnel* having attacked the boldness of the English press, which has recently, according to the Imperial writer, been casting calumnies on the French Government and nation—and having asserted that 35,000,000 Frenchmen are prepared to uphold the existing state of things in their own land.—the *Gazette de France* observes:—"We can see but one reasonable conclusion to be drawn from this article—namely, that the régime adopted with regard to the press does not in practice produce the advantages expected by those who established it. Although the *esprit de franchise* is now reduced to show itself in other ways than by publicity, it does not, if we are to believe the *Constitutionnel*, exercise an influence upon opinion. It is now accused of having imbued the masses with its inventions and calumnies, and having infiltrated its venom into French society as well as into the foreign press. It is questionable whether the system of liberty of the press, had it remained in force under a strong government, would have produced such dangerous results as these. It is even permissible to think that the 'false news' of which the *Constitutionnel* complains would have met with less credit if it had passed through the ordeal of a free discussion before reaching the ears of the public." The *Siecle* speaks to the same effect; and the *Assemblée Nationale* doubts the alleged 'calumnies' of the English press, adding:—"We have never read, either in the English or German journals, the attacks which have irritated the *Constitutionnel*. But it has very often happened that foreign newspapers addressed to us have mis-carried, and possibly, it may be those very missing numbers which contained the statements that have caused so much emotion."

Rossini has decided to fix his residence in Paris. He has taken an apartment at No. 2, Chaussée d'Antin, the corner of the Boulevard, at the rent of 10,000 fr. a year.

Great complaints have recently been directed against the Prefects and Sub-Prefects of various departments, who are accused of incompetence, carelessness, and tyranny. Considerable discontent is also expressed with respect to the manner in which the estimates are presented to the Chambers; and, in the event of any vacancies in the Legislative Corps, several candidates are prepared to start in opposition to the Government. On these facts, the *Times Paris* correspondent remarks:—"The Emperor had better look to the internal administration of the country. His authority is undermined by his own delegates, and his name is brought into dis-

repute by unworthy acts of which he is ignorant, but for which an entire people consider him responsible. He had better look to it before the moment comes when to him also may be applied those terrible words which other rulers have heard before him—*C'est trop tard!*"

AUSTRIA.

It is stated that France, about a year ago, asked Austria if she would like to place one of the Imperial family on the throne of a Moldo-Wallachian kingdom. The reply is said to have been, that no descendant of such a long line of Emperors would consent to be a vassal to the Sultan.

During the night between the 9th and 10th inst., there was a slight shock of earthquake at Trieste.

A new recruitment is said to have been ordered in every province in the Austrian Empire. The last recruitment was three years ago.

The Emperor and Empress of Austria left Vienna on Monday, for Italy, and arrived at Leybach in the evening. They propose to remain in Italy until next January. Three weeks will be devoted to Venice.

TURKEY.

Sir John McNeill has returned to London from Syria and Palestine, where he has been for some time past engaged in laying out a harbour on the east coast of the Mediterranean, and the railway which is to extend from thence to the Persian Gulf. General Chesney remains at Constantinople to get the details of the firm completed, the general principles of which had been agreed upon by the Turkish Government before he and Sir John left Constantinople for the East. The other railway on which Sir John has been employed is one of great interest to all the civilized world, namely, that from the ancient seaport of Joppa, now Jaffa, to Jerusalem, and from thence to Damascus.

The Emperor of Russia has forwarded the decoration of the White Eagle to Ismail Pacha, General-in-Chief of the Turkish army in Asia, in consideration of the handsome manner in which he acted towards the Russian prisoners at Kars.

The Porte is preparing to fortify Giurgevo, and a camp of 25,000 men will afterwards be established in the environs.

The price of grain is rising at Adrianople. The routes to and from Aleppo have become dangerous. The production of silk has failed, but the grain crops are good.

In presenting the Garter to the Sultan, Lord Stratford observed:—"In adding to the numerous species of glory which surround your Imperial name a distinction without precedent, your Majesty may attribute it to that personal benevolence, to that policy of conciliation, which have associated your Government with the great European family, and the results of which, already proclaimed, only await their full execution to shower everywhere around the most precious benefits. May I be allowed in my private name to express how deeply I feel the honour which will be reflected by this investiture upon me, the humble instrument destined to perform it?" The Sultan, in the course of his brief reply, said:—"I consider this event as a new consecration of the alliance. I shall speedily write to her Majesty the Queen to express my gratitude to her; but, meantime, I beg of you, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, to lay before the Queen the expression of our thanks and the assurance of our most sincere friendship. Monsieur l'Ambassadeur may be convinced that it is an additional pleasure for me to receive these noble insignia from his hands."

PRUSSIA.

Prince Adalbert has fully recovered from the wounds he received in his conflict with the Riff pirates.

The *Correspondance Prussienne* publishes an article directed against the Swiss press, in which it gives ground for believing that Prussia will exercise her direct authority over the Canton of Neuchâtel, and that the Government of Berlin will exact a recognition of its sovereignty.

A new naval arsenal is about to be formed on the Island of Rügen.

SPAIN.

We gather some Spanish news from a recent letter of the *Times* Paris correspondent, who writes:—"Queen Maria Christina left Paris on the 12th inst. with her family, en route for Rome, where she purposes residing, with her daughter, the Princess Deldrago. It is said she has already received 24,000,000 of reals (240,000l.) from the Spanish Government on account of her property which had been under sequestration. Another person in Madrid is also said to have been paid—but by whom is not said—18,000,000 reals, on condition of withholding from publicity certain papers of great importance. It is affirmed that it has been hinted to the bishops throughout Spain to petition the Queen against the validity of the sales of national property since the 1st of May, 1855, though purchasers are already in possession; and to appeal to her Majesty as a Christian, and as an exemplary and pious sovereign, to order their being declared null and void;—all this unknown to the Ministers. It is also feared that payments will not be received on account of that property without the Royal consent for each individual case."

The state of siege has been raised. Two ships of the line, three frigates, and three screw corvettes, are to be constructed.

A rumour prevails at Madrid that there is an inten-

tion on the part of the sons of Don Carlos and their adherents to recognize the present Queen.

The following diplomatic appointments have been made:—M. d'Aguillon to be Spanish Minister at Lisbon; M. Bermudez de Castro at Vienna; M. de Souza at Constantinople; M. Alexander de Castro at Turin; the Marquis de Rivera at Berlin; and M. Layo Quinonéz in Switzerland. The salary of members of the Royal Council is to be 60,000 reals.

M. Gonzales Bravo is appointed Ambassador to London.

RUSSIA.

An awkward affair has happened in the Sea of Azof. The Russian cruisers of Abasia having captured many Turkish vessels laden with contraband salt, Admiral Lord Lyons despatched some gun-boats to require an explanation. But one of these boats, the Badger, was desirous to penetrate into the sea of Azof; when the Russians refused her the permission to pass the Strait of Yenikaleh, and ultimately fired upon her. In consequence of this event, the Curaçoa has been despatched to the Black Sea, and will proceed to Odessa or Yenikaleh. The English, it is said, interdict the approach of Russian ships to the Isle of Serpents.

We learn from St. Petersburg that a considerable corps of Russian troops is concentrated on the frontiers of Persia and Turkey, to give effect, in case of need, to the influence of Russia, if the affairs of Persia and Afghanistan should assume a serious character.

It is stated in a Prussian paper that Russia is willing to renounce her claim to the Isle of Serpents, but that she will not give up Belgrad.

Prince Woronzoff died at Odessa on the 18th inst.

There is a report in Paris that the Emperor of Russia has instructed a broker to purchase 1,000,000l. of French Rentes, an amount which represents at par a capital of upwards of 33,000,000l. It is thought that the Czar will continue his purchase so long as the Rente remains under 70f.

GERMANY.

Very great excitement prevails in Bavaria at the High Consistory of the Lutheran Church insisting on "confession and strict church discipline." The laymen declare they will not consent to any other than the public and general confession, which is customary at certain stated periods.

DENMARK.

The King has had an attack of erysipelas in the face; but he is going on favourably. It is rumoured that he wishes to abdicate, and to retire to Switzerland, and into private life, with the Countess Danner. In this case, his uncle, Prince Ferdinand, will succeed him.

ITALY.

The Sardinian Government has despatched a frigate to the Indian Ocean, to take on board, from Ceylon, the Duke of Valambrosa, who has been at Ava on a special mission to the Burmese Emperor.

BELGIUM.

It is announced that the Princess Charlotte, daughter of King Leopold of Belgium, is about to be married to the Archduke Maximilian, second brother of the Austrian Emperor.

SWITZERLAND.

The affair of the Prussian claim to Neuchâtel is likely to be still further complicated, it is said, by a curious incident which has just been brought to light. Six autograph letters of Frederick William II. have been found amongst the archives of the canton, which prove that the annexation of the principality of Neuchâtel at the beginning of the eighteenth century did not take place by an act of feudal homage, but was the result of an adjudication to the highest bidder, proposed by the cantonal judges. The Swiss federal government intends to publish these letters, the dates of which are between 1711 and 1719, and their contents are relied upon as a refutation of the pretensions which are now advanced by the King of Prussia.—*Daily News*.

At the elections for the grand council which have just taken place at Geneva, the radicals have triumphed alike over the conservatives and the socialists. M. Fazy is at the head of the successful candidates. Among other councillors we observe the names of General Dufour and General Klapka, the well-known defender of Comorn, who has recently become a naturalized citizen of Geneva.—*Idem*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—It is stated that the Queen is again enfeinte, and that the birth of another prince or princess may be expected about next March.

PERSIA.—The *Presse d'Orient* has a letter of October 30, from Trebizond, the writer of which says that the General-in-chief of the Persian troops, which have been engaged in the siege of Herat for several months past, contrived to put himself secretly into communication with some of the inhabitants of the city, co-religionists with the Persians, belonging to the same Mohammedan sect of the Shiites. He induced them to open one of the city gates to him, on the night of the 30th of August, and to give admission to two Persian regiments. The Persians, however, had only just got within the walls, when the besieged Afghans, armed with cutlasses, threw themselves in dense masses upon them, and the

conflict was so fierce that the Persians were speedily repelled, with a considerable loss of men. It is said that a thousand of them, killed or badly wounded, were left upon the ground in the city.

THE WIDOW OF INSPECTOR RUMBALL.—The subscriptions in aid of this poor woman, whose money was lost in the Royal British Bank, have reached 114l. 2s. 2d., and absorbed by the bankrupt bank.

THE NEW LORD RECTOR OF GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.—Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton has been elected to this distinguished post (vacant by the retirement of the Duke of Argyll) by a majority of 108 over Lord Stanley, the only other candidate, Sir John Herschell, who had originally come forward, having retired.

LAW AMENDMENT.—It was stated by Lord Brougham, on the authority of Lord Lyndhurst, at a general meeting of the Law Amendment Society on Monday evening, that it is not the intention of the Government to proceed, during the next session of Parliament, with Sir Fitzroy Kelly's measure in reference to the Ecclesiastical Courts. This was a subject of much regret to his lordship, inasmuch as it was to be feared that any new measure to be propounded by the Government would be less effective than that which it would supersede. Lord Brougham said he had been in correspondence with Sir Fitzroy Kelly on the subject, and the council of the society had passed a resolution that it should be referred to a committee to consider and report thereon. His lordship therefore moved that that resolution be confirmed by the meeting. This was agreed to, and the committee was formed accordingly.

MORE FOOLERY AT ST. PAUL'S, KNIGHTSBRIDGE.—Another disgraceful, and at the same time ludicrous scene took place at the notorious church of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, last Sunday morning. The weather being foggy, and the church dark, Mr. Liddell ordered the beadle to light the great candles on the altar. Mr. Westerton, the churchwarden, had, however, previously directed that the gas-burners should be lighted, and when this was done, there was no practical occasion for the candles. The chosen child and champion of Protestantism, therefore, felt called on to act in this alarming crisis. He rose, went up the chancel steps (as an admiring chronicler of his progress relates in the *Daily News*), and passing by Mr. Liddell, who was on his knees at that time ("and supposed" says the same writer, "to be his devotions"), presently reappeared with the extinguisher. He went through the dwarf screen placed before the altar, and rapidly extinguished the candles and the hopes of Puseyism. He then returned to his pew, the whole thing having been consummated with such admirable dexterity and noiselessness that its effect was not observed. But "when Mr. Liddell, and Messrs. Smith and Westall, his curates, got up at the end of the morning prayers, to form their usual procession to the altar," continues the authority already quoted, "Mr. Liddell, to the surprise of the whole congregation, who were then standing while the Sanctus was being chanted by the choir, darted off into the vestry, followed by Mr. Smith, and returned with a lighted candle; they all then went up to the altar, Mr. Smith lighting one of the great candles. Mr. Westall, before being able to accomplish a similar feat with the other, was obliged to lift it off with its massive candlestick and light it on the floor—the congregation all this while locking on with amusement. The communion service then proceeded, and Mr. Westerton, feeling that further interference would not only have prevented the service from being carried out, but would have led to a personal struggle between himself and the clergy, remained in his pew.

COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE.—A sentence of death, passed on a woman named Mary Wood, who was found guilty at Edinburgh of the crime of child murder, has been commuted to transportation for life.

ESCAPE OF A CONVICT.—A very extraordinary escape of a convict, named Charles Butler, a native of Manchester, was effected from Portsmouth Dockyard, on Friday week. He managed to change his dress altogether, leaving the whole of his convict clothing behind him, with the exception of his shoes. It is evident that he must have been supplied with plain clothes by some one who has access to the yard, or, perhaps, employed in it.

THE FATAL COLLISION ON THE NEWPORT AND HAWFORD RAILWAY.—We are informed that Mr. M. Hild one of the unfortunate commercial travellers killed in the above catastrophe, had effected an assurance against accidents for 1000l. with the Railway Passengers Assurance Company, the trifling payment required having only been made a few months since. He has left a widow and five children, to whom the sum thus prudently secured will be an acceptable relief, and the advantage of the accidental assurances granted by this useful company can scarcely be shown in a more striking manner.

THE LATE LORD MAYOR.—An address to Mr. Alderman Salomons, highly eulogizing his conduct while fulfilling the office of Lord Mayor, has been proposed and unanimously carried by the Court of Aldermen.

PROPOSED REFORMATORY FOR GLAMORGANSHIRE.—A meeting has been held in the Shire Hall, Bridgend, for the purpose of taking measures for the establishment of a reformatory institution for the county of Glamorganshire in accordance with that object were

inously carried. Memorials from Cardiff and Swansea in favour of the proposed reformatory were then presented, an influential committee was appointed for the purpose of obtaining donations and annual subscriptions, and a vote of thanks was awarded to the High Sheriff for presiding.

THE SOUTHAMPTON ELECTION.—Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., addressed a meeting of the Liberal electors at Southampton on Wednesday evening. He was received with much favour, and the opinions he expressed were in accordance with enlightened principles of progress. The meeting was adjourned till Tuesday evening, to afford Mr. Weguelin, the other candidate, an opportunity of explaining his views. Sir E. Butler, a Conservative supporter of Lord Palmerston, is also in the field. Mr. Sergeant Pigott has retired, rather than divide the Liberals with Mr. James.

FIRE.—A very destructive fire occurred on Thursday night at the premises of Messrs. Hodgkinson and Rolls, patent envelope manufacturers, Church-passage, Upper Thames-street, City. It was not until a large body of water had been thrown on the building that the flames were subdued, and the warehouse was then found to be completely destroyed. Some damage was also done to the belfry and steeple of St. Bennett's Church, hard by, for which at first great fears were entertained. The vestry likewise suffered, and the total damage amounts to many thousand pounds.—The premises of Messrs. Horton, dress manufacturers, of Bromley, Middlesex, were nearly destroyed by fire on Thursday morning.

THE STATE OF THE METROPOLIS.—Sir George Grey has been waited upon by a deputation from Paddington, which called his attention to the inefficiency of the police arrangements.

AUSTRALIA.—By the latest advices from Melbourne brought by the Lightning, we learn that the Ministry has been overthrown. Mr. Cowper has formed a new Government.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERALSHIP.—The Hon. Stuart Wortley has accepted the office of Solicitor-General. This creates a vacancy in the Recordship of the City, which, it is believed, Mr. Bodkin will fill.

NEW WORKHOUSES.—The deputation appointed at a meeting of ratepayers of the West London Union, held on Tuesday evening, to protest against the erection of the proposed new workhouse, waited on Thursday by appointment upon the Poor-law Commissioners at Gwydder House, Whitehall. After they had stated their objections, the Hon. Mr. Bouvier said that he was informed that in the time of pressure the present workhouse had not adequate accommodation. He thought the guardians were the better judges of what was required than he was. The guardians were selected by the ratepayers, and, if they did not fully represent them, that was a question for the ratepayers.

M. KOSUTH.—The last of M. Kossuth's three lectures at Manchester was delivered on Saturday. The subject was the Austrian Concordat, which the patriot loudly denounced. He mourned over the decline of Protestantism, and warned this country against forming an alliance with so base a power as Austria.

THE PERSIAN EXPEDITION.—Sir James Outram, K.C.B., has left Southampton for Bombay, in order to take the command of the British force destined to operate against Persia.

THE SEWAGE QUESTION.—The Board of Works had an interview with Sir Benjamin Hall on Thursday, with reference to their differences on the drainage question. After an explanation from Mr. Thwaites, who conceived that he had substantially complied with the Act of Parliament, Sir Benjamin Hall read a letter, in which Captain Burdall, a gentleman appointed by the Admiralty to report on the question, recommended that, at the south side, the outfall should be at the upper part of the Erith Reach, fifteen miles from London-bridge, 7-8th of a mile from Erith Church, and a quarter of a mile below Jennings-tree-point, nearly opposite Raynham Creek, and at the north side. Sir Benjamin said he would be satisfied with this outlet, and the board indicated a disposition to adopt it.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, November 22.
THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY
FRAUDS.

REDPATH and Kent were again examined at the Clerkenwell police-court yesterday (Friday). The former appeared very haggard, but Kent looked extremely lively and indifferent.

Mr. Gifford (who appeared for the prosecution) said he did not propose to occupy the attention of the court with details. On the last occasion, two cases were proved, and he should now proceed with four more, making six cases in all. He should show that Redpath had received dividends on the amount of stock fraudulently standing in his name. With respect to the share Kent had in the transaction, it would be shown that he had made entries in the book which contained Mr. Redpath's account, and it would be shown that he must have been cognizant of these fraudulent transfers. He should also call the attention of the court to another class of frauds which had been com-

mitted jointly by the two prisoners. There was a transfer of stock from Stephen George Hammond to George Sidney, and the attesting witness was Charles Kent. It was believed that the name of Sidney was a forgery, and that there was no such person in existence. It would be shown that Sidney did not live at the place represented, but that Redpath, when he was out of employment, resided there some years ago.

The evidence was then gone into, and corroborated these statements, the general effect being that the figure 1 had in several cases been added to certain amounts consisting simply of a few hundred and odd pounds, so that there was a fraudulent gain of 100l. upon each of the transactions. In the cross-examination of Mr. Clarke, formerly registrar of the Great Northern Railway Stock, he said:—"The next account to Redpath's, on page 554, is Robertson and Watson; it is a joint account, and comprises a considerable number of items." Mr. Wontner: "Now, look at this, and see if nearly all the items are not written on erasures." Witness: "I don't see it." Mr. Wontner: "Look again, and be particular." Witness: "I think I see two." Mr. Wontner: "Can't you find four or six there. If not my eyes have deceived me." Witness: "I really cannot see more than two." A lighted candle was procured, against which witness held the page, and minutely examined it, adding, "I really do not see more than two—if two. I think there is but one." He again minutely examined the page, and said he could see but one erasure. Possibly, he continued, what Mr. Wontner pointed out were erasures, but he would not swear that they were.

The following letter from Kent to Redpath was produced and read:—"My dear Sir,—I enclose you three letters. Nothing has been wanting. You may depend on my keeping everything straight" (this word was underlined), "and I will not leave the office. I am very much obliged for your card. I am much in want of 30l. Had I not better sell some of my stock?—Yours very truly,—CHAS. KENT."

It was mentioned in the course of the trial that the clerks frequently received assistance from Redpath, and that he was very kind to them.

Both the accused were remanded for a week.

A petition in bankruptcy was yesterday presented against Redpath. The case has been allotted to Mr. Commissioner Goulburn, and Mr. Pennell is the official assignee. It is understood that the petitioning creditors are stockbrokers in the City.

THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

Sir Alexander Cockburn, yesterday morning, took his leave of the benchers and members of the Middle Temple, on his accession to the Chief Justiceship of the Court of Common Pleas. The hall was crowded with barristers and students, who gave the new Judge a most enthusiastic farewell. Sir Alexander was afterwards sworn in in his own Court, and he will this day go through the same ceremony in the Courts of Queen's Bench and Exchequer, and will then proceed to the Common Pleas, and take his seat as Chief Justice.

THE GUNBOAT AFFAIR IN THE BLACK SEA.

The Paris *Pays* states, with reference to this affair, that "the two commanding officers (Russian and English) having exchanged explanations, agreed to refer the matter to the two Embassies at Constantinople, and, this course having been taken, the dispute was, we understand, amicably arranged."

INSURRECTION IN SPAIN.—The garrison of Malaga has been attacked by a band of persons proclaiming the Republic. The troops behaved gallantly, and order was soon re-established. Five of the insurgents were killed. The garrison had seven men wounded.

THE EARL OF LUCAN AND THE DAILY NEWS.—In this case, Mr. Field (of the *Daily News*) moved for a rule to show cause why the defendant should not be allowed to put two pleas upon the record in an action at present pending between the plaintiff and the defendant, Mr. George Frederick Smith, the registered proprietor of the *Daily News*, for an alleged libel upon his lordship. The pleas were to the effect that the article was a legitimate comment on the public acts of a public man; that others had been criticized with equal severity, &c. The rule was refused.

THE BRITISH BANK.—The Vice-Chancellor has announced that he intends to deliver judgment in this case this day (Saturday) or Monday.

THE SUPPOSED MURDER AT ERITH.—A young man named Thomas Cartwright Worrell, a carpenter residing at Kennington, destroyed himself by swallowing a quantity of prussic acid yesterday morning, whilst locked up in the cell of the Greenwich police-station, on a charge of having wilfully murdered George Carter, whose body was found on the grounds of Captain Wheatley, at Erith, on the 1st inst. Very strong suspicion rested upon Worrell; but, when arrested, a letter, addressed to his father, expressing and protesting his innocence of the crime, was found upon him.

MR. WILLIAM RUSSELL.—A letter was received yesterday morning from Mr. William Russell, of the *Times*, to one of his friends, dated "Bakstchi-Serai, Nov. 4," in which he states that he is on his way home, after a most agreeable and interesting journey; but that he will return through Russia to the Prussian frontier.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LORD RAVENSWORTH'S SPEECH.—We have received a letter from "J.P." stating that it was the *Northwestern Daily Express*—not, as we had it, the *Newcastle Daily Express*—which first published Lord Ravensworth's speech about the Blaydon News-room, criticized by us last week; and that the same paper has always printed full reports of "similar meetings at the other Institute (called infidel) at Blaydon."

M. GALLIESA'S BYGONES.—Our supplementary explanation on this subject is unavoidably postponed.

THE MOON'S ROTATIONS.—Lieutenant Morrison and Mr. Kenward's communications in our next.

We do not undertake to return rejected communications.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1856.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

PRESIDENT BUCHANAN.

HOWEVER strangers may regard the election of Mr. BUCHANAN as a triumph of the South over the North, there is at least one person who will smile at the idea, and that is JAMES BUCHANAN. It is often assumed in England that the contest between South and North ought to have settled the subject of slavery, that those who have taken part in the presidential conflict were the furious Proslavery men on the one side, or the Total Abolitionists on the other. If that were so, how strange would be the result.

Our own readers do not need to be informed that there were other considerations. What is the 'Republican' party, which has set itself up against the Democratic? It is too new to be defined. It professes to consider the Democratic party not new enough, not enough go-ahead—ultra-Conservatives! We cannot place the new party.

There was something, too, in the personal character of the candidates. Colonel FREMONT is an enterprising, intelligent man. He may have an honest zeal in promoting particular questions, but one thing he most certainly desires to promote, and that is, the advancement and glory of FREMONT. As a Western explorer, a promoter of mines, and the contractor for a new cause, he is admired, just as we admire a fast horse; but who could give him a good sound character? Mr. MILLARD FILLMORE, elected as Vice, succeeded to the Presidency on the death of the full President. He became President 'by the visitation of God,' and got through his duties respectably. Moreover, he had been received at court in England! Those were his qualifications. The other candidate was JAMES BUCHANAN.

And who is he? He is the inheritor of a fortune sufficient to render him independent. In early life he entered into the law and mastered the statutes in common law of his country. He has served in most offices of the Union, he has represented it in the autocratic court of Russian NICHOLAS, and in the constitutional court of Queen VICTORIA. In every variety of situation he is known to sustain the interests and dignity of his country with firmness, and to behave with a courtesy which disarms his antagonists. It is quite evident that his unflinching conduct in the Central American question, and in the Enlistment question, caused him to be regarded with rancour by the British Government. A parade has been made of conceding to the courtesies of Mr. DALLAS points which were denied to Mr. BUCHANAN as if Mr. DALLAS were the more successful

ambassador in this country. But what are the facts? The facts are that the positions established by Mr. BUCHANAN have been secured by his country, and ceded by this country. The Free states possess a majority of 177 to 120 over the Slave states. Two of the Slave states, Kentucky and Maryland, have gone with FREMONT; so that if it had really been a question between freedom and slavery, between the North and the South, the Northern could have crushed the Southern party, and the Republican candidate would now have been the President.

We are not aware that throughout Mr. BUCHANAN's official career he has ever been found upholding the cause of injustice, or has ever been deaf to the plea of injustice. Could English Ministers bring forward an accusation against the man who has quietly defeated them at every point, out the accusation would come. They are silent; they can only give vent to their feelings by ostentatiously parading his successor. Studiously plain in his own appearance and demeanour, courteous and accessible to all, JAMES BUCHANAN is about the best man, perhaps in the whole world, to represent America at the present moment. He is not a Pro-slavery man; he is as little that as he is an Abolitionist. He has no hostile feelings to England—not even to official England—still less to the people of this country. He has no Republican rancour against courts; though he was not quite so bitten by court notice as some more hot-headed Republicans have been in London and St. Petersburg. Familiar with the institutions of his country, he is equally familiar with the customs, the habits of thought, the institutions, the circumstances, and tendencies of the chief European countries. He knows what can be done with them, what cannot be done; he can compare the powers of his own country with the powers of Europe; he knows where interests conflict, and where they agree; he is quite aware that in the great body of the English people there are two guarantees for continual accord with America, gigantic material interests, and a strong family feeling of friendship. There is no man who has so extensive a personal acquaintance with men and things throughout the world; no man who holds in his head, ready for application at the moment, so comprehensive a grasp of his own country's history. Beloved by his friends, respected by his countrymen, conscious of a wide influence, patient and persevering, he is not addicted to impulse, nor does he rely in contest upon vehemence. He is therefore essentially conciliatory in his demeanour. No man better understands the impolicy of rapidly extending the territories of the Union, the utter inexpediency of taking into the Federal Republic any alien state such as Mexico; while from the nature of things and from experience he must perceive the impossibility of refusing admission to any newly-peopled Anglo-American state demanding it. His democratic respect for state rights would forbid him to dictate the institutions of a state. His election we regard as a declaration of the resolve of a vast majority of the American people that they have not federally arrived at the period when they can settle the great question of slavery. They decline to settle it; they leave the settlement to time. And they are justified by the opinion of the best men of their country, who see that in population, freedom of action, wealth, energy, territory, and votes, the North is steadily outgrowing the South. They see in the progress of republican institutions, with the consequent freedom of discussion and of action, that at some day not yet fixed, slavery will die a natural death, without any federal invasion of State rights, or any unnatural regret

for the dear departed. In the meanwhile, the true stronghold for the settlement of all these difficult questions, for the promotion of America's prosperity, her strength against enemies, and influence with the world, is the upholding of American institutions, the vindication of Anglo-American freedom, and the defence by the United Government of State rights. We look round the public men of the Union, who are known by the avowal of their sentiments in their most unguarded moments, their actions in the face of the world, their tried consistency, and we look in vain to find a man who, at this period of conflicting questions at home and abroad, can so completely, so trustworthily represent American interests, American institutions, and American feelings, as President BUCHANAN.

THE UNITED DEFALCATION, GAROTTE, AND GENERAL APPROPRIATION COMPANY (LIMITED).

EXTENSIVELY as the principle of joint-stock association had been applied, its crowning triumph was still wanting. One branch of business had been strangely neglected. It seems, however, that the neglect was more apparent than real. Our readers will understand that we allude to the field of commerce in which REDPATH, ROBSON, VILLIERS, COLE, and others can scarcely be called pioneers, since they were only following, in happier times, the example set them by earlier men; and they have not struck out that idea which would give perfection to the system. Even the genius of JOSEPH WINDLE COLE, which we are far from underrating, failed to hit upon that crowning measure; yet he seemed on the very threshold. Indeed, we are not sure that the merit of the suggestion can be completely denied to him; but it almost always turns out in the case of a new invention that it is claimed for many inventors. BESSEMER finds several to contest his patent; WHEATSTONE and BREWSTER are disputing the first invention of the stereoscope; and we are not sure that the author of the new system which is about to be introduced—if it is not already in operation—will not find himself confronted by claimants to the invention. Its plan is as gigantic as its arrangements are practical. The discovery was brought about by mere accident. It is well known that the successes of ROBSON and REDPATH have led to scrutiny in other companies, and, we may add, in private firms; and one investigation in particular has occasioned disclosures still more startling than any yet published. The first event, hitherto shrouded in impenetrable mystery, was the arrest of a gentleman who had until now stood high in the world of fashion and politics, an habitu  of our West-end salons, a contributor to several public charities. We know the uneasy feelings which this description will create in many respectable circles; but we trust that we are not yet arrived at the day when the mere fact of a gentleman's supporting a large establishment, associating with West-end society, and subscribing to charitable institutions, must necessarily expose him to suspicion? No; we venture to assert that there are still some to whom the description will apply, still some in the lists of subscribers to charitable institutions whose conduct is irreproachable, and who have not, even by their family ties, any connexion with this very questionable branch of commerce. Our readers may smile, but we only state our sincere conviction. Among the papers found in the mansion of the gentleman whose conduct is under scrutiny was one which instantly attracted interest, succeeded by amazement and admiration at its audacity. It was nothing more nor less than a prospectus of "The United

Defalcation, Garotte, and General Appropriation Company (Limited)."

We regret much that the length of this document prevents our giving it entire, but even from a cursory and necessarily imperfect description, its truly practical character will be at once perceived. It was headed, "Private and Confidential," and very few copies, we believe, had been struck off; since it was only intended for the privileged few who could take a leading part as promoters of the undertaking. The proposed capital was 2,000,000*l.*, which may at the first blush seem large; but on learning the objects of the Company, the only wonder is that its projectors, who evidently understood their business, could have expected to start on so small a basis. It is, however, remarked that the Soci t  de Cr dit Mobilier has no more than 2,400,000*l.* of paid-up capital, yet it can command a floating capital of 4,800,000*l.* besides; and there are some other joint-stock associations in Paris and London that are strictly in point.

The business of the Company is divided into several departments, the object being to secure unity of action over a very wide field. For unity gives many guarantees quite unattainable by the chaotic system, or rather want of system, which has hitherto prevailed, and to which the lamentable misfortunes of able and estimable men like REDPATH, ROBSON, COLE, and others are mainly attributable. The justice of this calculation will be seen in the sequel. The most extensive section of the great scheme is the Defalcation Department. The data on which the plan for which this department was laid down are interesting. The aggregate capital of the British railways alone is 300,000,000*l.*; in one single railway company, one man was enabled to create an additional capital perhaps imperfectly stated at 200,000*l.* The aggregate capital of the other joint-stock companies is only in part ascertained; that of private firms is unattainable; but the whole undoubtedly amounts to some tens of places of figures. It is believed upon sound data that the amount realized by defalcations bears no mean proportion to this magnificent aggregate of wealth. The ascertained sums involved in great defalcations alone, within the last two years, range from 30,000*l.* (Robson's) to 600,000*l.* in the case of COLE; and the total of the half-dozen best known cases is between two and three millions! This is quite irrespective of many minor cases, and of 'misfortunes' in trade. It is irrespective of bill transactions, and of minor embezzlements. These few facts, selected from a great number which it might be impolitic to publish, show the magnitude of the trade even in its present imperfect state, and the expansion which might be caused by practical improvement.

The *modus operandi* is interesting. The Company is managed by directors, under a patron, a chairman, deputy-chairman, and secretary. The shareholders are divided into passive, and active—a classification suggested by the nature of the enterprise. A passive shareholder only draws dividends; the active shareholder is one of the many agents of the Company; but both capacities may be united. The directors, amongst whom probably would be men of title and high position, no doubt associated with other companies, would be the agents of the Company wherever it is possible to find a post of trust or opportunity. The different methods of securing returns would be adapted to the plans of the different companies upon which the new Company would operate. The alteration of figures on coupons and registers, the substitution of specially prepared shares, the acquisition of shares unknown to the owners and their withdrawal of dividends on vouchers before

ing to eminent shareholders who are allowed to draw their dividends without vouchers, the purchase of stores at a price probably agreed upon with the vendor and lower than the price charged to a company, the use of a company's cash in other undertakings, the sale of tickets for passengers, &c., the taking of securities and raising money upon them, the concerting of plans for intercepting bullion, &c., in transit from station to station,—all these methods have been in part anticipated, and it is not desirable to detail the yet larger number of ready devices in which the prospectus is rich. The one certain thing is that there are many modes of turning to account the capital, income, securities, and stores of any great company under treatment—many more than have yet been disclosed. But the new Company propose to add both to the extent and certainty of the operations by having their own agents as contractors, clerks, registrars, foremen, auditors, and even directors of the other companies selected for exploration; in short, in any capacity of trust. The only limit would arise from the inconvenience of numbers, and the danger of the arrangement becoming known to the general shareholders.

One most interesting feature in the plan will be appreciated by Messrs. REDPATH, ROBINSON, COLE, &c.: it consists of an excellent arrangement for facilitating the retirement of any 'active' shareholder who might be interrupted in the execution of his duties, and put to inconvenience. It will readily be perceived that the Company, possessing unlimited command of cash, with its agencies in every quarter, on every line of railway, and in every port, and having many private houses necessarily connected with the enterprise, would be able to offer temporary retreat at once, and a free passage to any part of Europe and North America, or,—too much neglected under such circumstances—Asia, South America, and Polynesia.

The next in importance is the Plant and Domestic department, for the acquisition of property in private houses. Hitherto the instruments in this department have been of the rudest description, and totally without organization. It has been impossible to preserve every improvement that has occurred to individuals, however eminent and ingenious. In connexion with this branch, though ostensibly a perfectly independent establishment, will be a Domestic Servants' Office.

The Locomotive Department applies to railways and the ordinary highways. There is no reason to suppose that AGAR had any employment under the Company, although the coincidence is curious. Indeed, the fate of that exceedingly able and honourable man is a striking example of the want which has been so long unsupplied.

A separate office in the Locomotive Department is devoted to the Garotte Office; a new branch, but capable of infinite development. An eminent firm has contracted to supply an assortment of new implements for this branch, on a highly improved principle. The branch office, however, will be limited, as the risk is considerable, and the returns precarious, sometimes contemptible.

Another branch of the Locomotive is the Omnibus Office; a peculiarly quiet and profitable line.

In connexion with the Locomotive Department, arrangements have been made for a strong recruitment of the police with men of good character. It is believed that it will be possible to prevent the men, tempted with the hope of trading on their own account, from forming dangerous connexions with ill-trained lads, such as so seriously compromised the policeman KING, from whom better things might have been expected under a better system.

The promoters of the Company throw out a strongly-worded but homethrust warning against the dangerous practice of area sneaking; and they state explicitly that they will not countenance any connexion with pocket business, whether in the streets, at the theatres, or places of public amusement. It is a paltry line of operations, full of risk, and wholly unworthy the attention of any respectable association.

It is in contemplation to establish, in confidential connexion with the Company, separate companies, or firms, for the purposes of insurance, shipping and shipping insurance, and contracts with Government or railway companies. The Servants' Office has already been mentioned. At the chief office will be a Clearing House in connexion with the branch establishments in the chief towns and on the Continent.

But one of the most important sections of the whole enterprise is a bank, to be called the Imperial British Bank; a great convenience. It was at first thought that this would need a separate capital; but those who are well informed know that no capital is needed for the foundation of a bank. There will, however, in fact, be another bank in connexion with the Company, of a perfectly safe kind, for the use of the shareholders and connexions. In order to preserve the perfect solidity of this part of the establishment, it will be necessary to exclude the public, and especially the commercial classes and the gentry; both of whom are so reckless that really it is difficult to see how any well-conducted establishment can maintain itself if it is open to those two classes. For the general public the Imperial Bank is established; but it will be strictly watched by the directors.

An important branch of the General Appropriation department, at present very little developed, is the Bankruptcy department. It is not the difficulty of finding business, but, on the contrary, the immense mass of business which awaits the Company in this line, that has retarded the settlement of that part of the plan. It is necessary to make the arrangements as complete as possible, in consequence of the intense competition already existing in the particular branch of business, and the extent to which the Defalcation, Garrotte, and General Appropriation Company has been anticipated.

It will scarcely be necessary to found new establishments in all cases, for it is probable that alliances may be formed with companies or firms already existing and enjoying a high character in general commerce. Intending shareholders in the Defalcation and General Appropriation need be under no apprehension that connexions will be formed with any but houses of the highest standing. On that head there can be no difficulty, as was abundantly proved in the case of Mr. J. W. COLE.

One essential will be to have the Company well represented in both Houses of Parliament; and with regard to one House, at least, the arrangement will be easy. The Company might have possessed its two members on the Liberal side in the brothers SADLEIR; it was the want of the company that destroyed the really masterly plans of those members.

As to the success of this enterprise, there can be no question. It meets a want. The success even of a second discount house in the City is less certain. The field of enterprise is unploughed, save by individual adventurers, whose profits have been enormous. The elements already exist. The sole doubt would lie in the want of experience, ability, or trustworthiness of the promoters; but their interests are too completely identified

with the project to leave room for doubt, if any were permitted respecting gentlemen of so much talent, moral character, and social standing as those whose names will be submitted to intending purchasers of shares. At the head will be a great capitalist who has already engaged in a vast variety of gigantic undertakings, without any accident to himself. In the present state of the Share-market, the general public naturally feels deterred by the alarming reports. People shrink from schemes so reprehensible and hazardous as *Crédit Mobilier* in Spain, or Russian railways. In the Defalcation and General Appropriation they find an ascertained field of activity; and in the identity of interests between shareholders and directors they have that exclusive guarantee, so absent in many other joint-stock companies, honesty of direction.

THE GENERALS AT KARS.

GENERAL KMETY has published an unpretending pamphlet* to vindicate his reputation and services, which, he considers, have suffered unjustly from omissions in General WILLIAMS's despatches and public speeches. As though he were unwilling to make a direct appeal, his pamphlet is little more than a full account of the battle of the 29th September. It is indeed a complete military monograph of that battle, and, as the production of the chief actor in the events described, and of a man of undoubted veracity and great experience, will doubtless have its value for military students. To understand the value of the argument implied, it is only necessary to premise that the operations before Kars never lost their character of a blockade except upon one day, and that with that single exception no fighting, which rises in dignity above a skirmish of outposts, took place throughout. General KMETY's statement is that, except some distant cannonading, the whole of that action was fought by troops upon the left bank of the river, that he was in sole command of the whole of these troops and of the works defended by them, and that he never received any order from any superior officer throughout the day.

Colonel TEESDALE, the only Englishman who was other than a distant eye-witness of the main struggle, who, in a letter written immediately after the battle, gives the whole glory of the day to "dear old KMETY," may be cited in support of this statement. Nor could General WILLIAMS himself, who publicly thanked him for the victory in the name of the Queen of ENGLAND, have at that time thought very differently.

Although it is not until his third despatch after the battle that Sir FENWICK WILLIAMS mentions General KMETY, and then only as commanding 'the division' on the Tachmas (a part only of the lines on the left bank), and although in that despatch he is only mentioned as displaying "conspicuous courage and conduct" promiscuously with HUSSEIN PACHA and Major TEESDALE, his own chief of the staff, General KMETY complains less of these despatches, which might fairly be expected to be occupied with English achievements, than of the public speeches. These, although they abound with descriptions and anecdotes of the siege and of this victory, which he considers his own, either pass by his name in silence, or only present him without special mention in the company of far less distinguished officers. Unless General KMETY has departed widely from the 'chivalry and modesty' which British officers have attributed to him, and unless Col. TEESDALE was mistaken, and Sir FENWICK WILLIAMS has since found cause to modify his good opinion

* Narrative of the Defence of Kars. Translated from the German of George Kmetz. (J. Ridgway.)

—of which we and the General have some claim to be informed—we must reluctantly own that we consider the charge of want of fairness and generosity made by General KMETZ's friends, not by himself, as justly proven. The English public listened with sympathy to General WILLIAMS's praises of his enemies, it would scarcely have been less tolerant of a just tribute to the gallant exile serving in the army of an ally.

When Sir F. WILLIAMS publicly thanked General KMETZ in the name of the Queen of ENGLAND, an Englishman who was present has told us the Hungarian exclaimed, with tears, that he "prized those thanks more than an earldom and 20,000*l.* a year;" his present anxiety to stand well with us is the highest compliment a brave foreigner can offer to a nation he respects.

General KMETZ is by no means sparing in the praises of his subordinates, and he presents the Turkish officers to us in a new and favourable light. No English officer who has been brought into contact with the privates of that army has spoken of them as otherwise than "sober, hardy, docile, apt in the use of arms, with all the habits of old campaigners from their first enlistment," in fact, as "splendid raw material." But there was no class, it was said, from which officers could be drawn, and promotion had become so thoroughly a matter of backstairs influence, that to officer a Turkish army efficiently with Turks was hopeless. General KMETZ, however, records feats of some among their number not unworthy of "the pen of Mr. RUSSELL." The conspicuous gallantry of numbers among them is recorded with their names. The achievements of HUSSEIN PACHA, ZARIK MOUSTAPHA, and Colonel ZACHARIA BEY are told at length. "KERIM PACHA, the reiss, or lieutenant, of the commander-in-chief, accompanied by one aide-de-camp, one servant, and four Kurds, fought his way through the enemy, and entered the Tachmas redoubt." "They were 15,000 strong, and at most points within pistol-shot. "He remained conspicuous on horseback, giving orders to those about him, and undisturbedly smoking his chibouk amid the hail of shot that rattled on all sides of him, and when two horses had been successively shot under him." We doubt whether there were many cooler hands than this same KERIM PACHA in either the Malakhoff or Redan. Captain HALIL BEY, a young officer, who was wounded in the foot, seized a stray horse, and having been hastily bandaged by the first surgeon he met, was again at the head of his troops and under fire before the work they were assaulting was taken.

General KMETZ does not criticize the strategy of Sir F. WILLIAMS in defending Kars, unless we infer, from his remark on the disproportion of the lines to be defended to the strength of the troops—an opinion shared in by many continental officers, especially those in the Turkish service—that it was an unfit place to defend.

He complains, however, that the support sent up by, we suppose, General WILLIAMS from the town, came in by 'driblets,' and were thus rendered nearly useless; he also criticizes the English general's inaction after the battle:—

The Turkish army, profiting by the enthusiasm prevailed, and taking advantage of the inequalities of the ground and the darkness which reigned during the early part of the night before the rising of the moon, should have undertaken an attack on the night after the victory by several light movable columns, directed from different sides upon Ainalli, to surprise the enemy's troops, which, some 3000 or 4000 strong, after having been beaten back from the Ingliz Tabias, had retired to that village, and were there encamped.

This camp was distant more than four hours' march from the main camp at the enemy's head-quarters near Tchivilli Kaya, whereas it was only one hour and a half distant from us.

The enemy's troops echeloned between these two camps had been withdrawn, immediately after the battle, to his head-quarter camp. No support, therefore, could have come to Ainalli for four hours. The want of horses for our artillery is no excuse; for by night, and on broken ground, we required no guns, and we had three battalions of rifles. The usual order and discipline could not have reigned in the enemy's camp after so bloody a day, on which so many of his superior officers had fallen, and encumbered, as it must have been, with wounded. Moreover, we were elated by success, whilst the enemy was correspondingly depressed.

According to the information in the hands of the defenders, the enemy's total effective force round Kars, after deducting his losses in the battle, was believed not to exceed some 15,000 infantry and 10,000 or 12,000 cavalry, including the troops at Ainalli. The effective force of the defenders, at this time within the entrenched camp, might have been some 17,000 or 18,000 men, of whom, as will have been seen by the recital of the battle, a considerable portion had not been engaged.

Any verdict, however, upon Sir FENWICK WILLIAMS's qualifications as a general would be premature, until the appearance of the work which he has himself promised us; meanwhile, we cannot but regret, that by his attack upon OMAR PACHA, and by his conduct towards his comrade, General KMETZ, he has thrown a serious obstacle in the way of his again displaying in the East the great administrative qualities and the steadfast determination which have so justly exalted him in the eyes of his countrymen.

THE DUBLIN MURDER.

A most remarkable murder has been committed in Dublin. The murderer is unknown, and the circumstances of the crime are complicated and curious. The Dublin newspapers have rather loosely narrated the facts, omitting many points very desirable to be known, and the coroner's inquest was conducted without sufficient deliberation. We must state the case as it appears in the evidence.

The offices in Dublin of the Midland Great Western Railway are situated in a central part of the city (bearing somewhat the same relation to the central bridge of the city as the Euston-square terminus does to Waterloo-bridge). On entering the principal door of the terminus there is a hall, with a window looking out on the railway platform, and a staircase leading up to a corridor above. The corridor (to your right as you reach the top of the stairs) leads to a suite of four rooms; the fourth room was the cashier's office. The cashier, Mr. GEORGE LITTLE, was a gentleman aged forty-five, a bachelor, living with his mother and sister. He was a quiet, timid gentleman. He discharged his duties at the office with care, had his cash account correct every Wednesday, and generally stayed at the office an hour or two later than his clerk, WILLIAM CHAMBERLAIN, who sat with him in the same room. About three or four weeks ago poor Mr. LITTLE, sitting alone in his room after his clerk had gone, "got a great start." A labouring man in corduroy trousers and fustian jacket came in "while the money was all about," inquiring for some gentleman in the office. This induced Mr. LITTLE to get the lock of his door so altered that he could lock himself in after his clerk had gone away. The woman who went round the offices clearing up "after the gentlemen had left," came to his door in turn, but on turning the handle generally found it locked, and heard Mr. LITTLE say from inside, "I am not gone yet." This was the general routine; but on one or two occasions Mr. LITTLE did not answer, although the door was locked and he was inside. On one day last week (Wednesday) a little girl of fourteen, daughter of the housekeeper, knocked at the door on some errand, but Mr. LITTLE would not admit her until he heard her voice, and was told her business. On Thursday, the day following, his clerk left at ten minutes past five,

but Mr. LITTLE had some accounts to make up. (The room in which he sat was a corner room; there were two windows, one facing the door, the other in the wall at the left hand of the door as you entered the room. The greater part of the room was partitioned in by a counter and some railings, with apertures for paying money, such as are usual in offices. Behind this counter was a large table, and behind the table was a chair in which Mr. LITTLE, a short-sighted gentleman with spectacles, usually sat.) At about half past five, that is, twenty minutes after his clerk had left, the little girl, assistant to the housekeeper, tried the door; it was locked, and, as usual, she supposed that Mr. LITTLE was within. At ten minutes past seven, the housekeeper herself came to the door, and saw the light coming through the keyhole: the door was locked. About that time, the other servant, sitting in the room below, heard a step in Mr. LITTLE's room; she swears that it was his, but this is doubtful. At eleven o'clock, the servant again tried the door: it was locked. Nothing more was known, until in the morning the door had to be forced, and the dead body of Mr. LITTLE was found, with one terrible wound over the left ear (from a heavy angular instrument), several smaller wounds in the head, and a deep gash in his throat.

It is important to note how the body was found. It appeared as if he had fallen to the right of his chair, and the mark over the left ear was evidently inflicted while Mr. LITTLE's head was stooped. There was no sign of a struggle; his clothes were very little disarranged; the papers lay neatly on the table before him; the money, counted before him in little piles of silver, was lying undisturbed. Blood had fallen, but all on the one spot where the murdered man first fell. On a towel were marks of a bloody razor having been wiped; the door was locked, the key gone, and about 300*l.* in gold was missing from a safe behind the chair. There were traces in blood of a man's escape; first he tried a back staircase, and failed; and then evidently escaped, through a window on the ground floor, on to the platform, from the platform through a door, bolted every evening, but found unbolted the morning after the murder.

The question first is, was the murderer acquainted with the office, and the habits of the clerks? The manner of entry, and the manner of escape, indicate that he knew the place; but this knowledge may have been acquired by a stranger in a casual visit. The most singular fact is the mute but terrible evidence of the mark over the left ear that the first stunning blow, precluding all struggle, was given while Mr. LITTLE was sitting at his desk. (What a terrible picture!—the poor, hard-working clerk, poring over his papers, while his murderer is poisoning the weapon over his head.) Now, Mr. LITTLE's door was locked on Thursday evening; how did the murderer get in? and how did he obtain the opportunity of an unexpected blow? If a stranger knocked at Mr. LITTLE's door, he, cautious and timid, would surely have called out, "Who is that?" and even if he admitted the man, which is unlikely, he must have come out from behind the counter to do so. We learn that Mr. LITTLE had no objection even to acquaintances or friends standing behind the counter. But, seeing a stranger, would he have unsuspectingly returned to his desk, sat down again, and bent over the papers, while he stood in the room? For it is clear that Mr. LITTLE was struck down, almost senseless, while sitting at his desk and bending over his papers. Another supposition is, was it some friend or familiar ac-

quintance? Let us suppose the case. He knocks, and asks admittance. The voice is known. He enters, and engages the cashier in parley. Mr. LITTLE was not a firm man; even where the intruders into his office were Jew pedlars he found it hard to get rid of them. He might not have liked, he might fear, the presence of this friend, who may have been of any rank in life, from the humblest man known to him up to the highest in rank among his friends. But he was not the man to tell the intruder to go away. Perhaps he indicated his unwillingness to be disturbed by returning to his work, and then felt on his head that stunning blow which crushed him down, and left him a senseless victim for repeated wounds. We have indicated above the defects of the newspaper reports, and of the coroner's inquiry. For instance, the dimensions of the room are not stated, nor the distance between Mr. LITTLE's chair and the counter—but we may guess the latter, when we find that "a large table" was between them. The instrument with which, in all likelihood, the murder was effected, has been found—it is a heavy hammer, with a handle eighteen inches long.

The Dublin police have more than once signally failed in detecting secret crimes. They now appear to hunt up eagerly some strangers who were seen about the office: they should first quietly exhaust suspicions against every one who knew Mr. LITTLE, knew the office, and knew the business habits of the cashier.

THE WALEWSKI ESTATES.

THE *Observer* recently announced that the Czar ALEXANDER II., appreciating the services rendered to Russia during the late war by Count WALEWSKI, had restored the Polish estates of the family, confiscated after the events of 1831. It is well known that M. WALEWSKI, now a Minister of the Empire, was then an officer on the staff of the insurrectionary Polish army. The *Times* repeated, in emphatic type, the statement of the *Observer*. Immediately the *Paris Débats* and *Constitutionnel* circulated a contradictory sneer, concluding with these words:—

M. Walewski never possessed any property in Poland, nor has the Russian Government ever confiscated any possessions belonging to his family. Thus do the assertions of the *Observer* and the *Times*, which we have no language to qualify, fall of themselves to the ground.

We have nothing to do with the assertion that M. WALEWSKI was, during the recent war, a servitor of the Russian Government. His policy may be construed in that sense, or it may not. But the two privileged French journals have published that which is distinctly, unmistakably, and thoroughly incorrect. The Russian Government *did* confiscate the estates of the WALEWSKI family. Here is the notification contained in the number of the official Russian organ, the *Tygodnik Petersburski* (published at St. Petersburg weekly) of September 12 (24) 1844:—

A decree of the Council of Administration of Poland, passed in the month of July, 1844, says:—

"Whereas, Alexander Count Walewski, after having, on a decree presented in 1833, obtained an amnesty, has not taken advantage thereof, hereby is decreed the confiscation of his goods, also the inscription in the hypothecation register, to the credit of the State, of the titles of the property in stock pertaining to the aforesaid Walewski."

"If," says the Belgian *National*, "the *Débats* and the *Constitutionnel* are particular on the point, we will give the name of an important domain that was confiscated."

Yet the denials of the *Constitutionnel* and the *Débats* were 'communicated.' What if the *Moniteur* be as false when it contradicts its semi-official contemporary? and what if the *Nord* should venture to affirm that no such decree exists in the Russian archives?

The Belgian *National* remarks, justly, "we may judge, from this new example, how much confidence should be placed in the 'communicated' paragraphs of the journals devoted to M. WALEWSKI." But no French newspaper will be allowed to reprint the ukase; so that the French public will be left to believe that "the Russian Government never confiscated any property belonging to the family."

The statement that the family *did* lose estates in this manner, has been set down as originating in ignorance and propagated by malice. No respectable journal in this country, however, approved the ridiculous violence of the *Constitutionnel*. We have yet to learn whether we may congratulate the house of WALEWSKI upon the resumption of its ancient domains.

THE UNCONVICTED.

A GREAT light has burst upon us. We understand the spirit of the age better than we did a few hours since. Mr. LITTLE has been murdered, says the Dublin Protestant Institution, because the Government has neglected its duty. This is indeed an alarming riddle. Why should the unoffending LITTLE be slain because the Government has done something amiss? It implies that the Government of the country is in some way or other pledged on the side of those who have destroyed LITTLE. It implies, too, that the Dublin Protestants are in the secret, and know the motives of the vengeance. There is evidently a connexion between the murderer, the Dublin Protestants, and the Government, who are all of a story.

Now this would be simply an insoluble riddle if we had not other facts to elucidate it. The number of proceedings called frauds has become so considerable, and is as yet so evidently unexhausted, that we are driven to ask for the statistics of the population engaged in such transactions. The vast number of persons in some kind of office, the distinguished gentlemen in commerce, persons of distinction in fashionable neighbourhoods, and eminent for their religious and charitable qualities, who accidentally deviate into our criminal courts, challenges inspection by Mr. MANN. If the Unconvicted of the class bear a fair proportion to the convicted, their name is Legion, and we must further ask, what proportion the Unconvicted bear to the guilty?

The answer suggested throws considerable light upon the state of parties and of politics. We observe that the Unconvicted interest has its representatives in all places of power and influence: has its nobles and its members of Parliament; it has posted its agencies amongst the directors of our great managing companies, amongst the clerks; and, like Russia, it has a wide-spread agency throughout all classes of society. We suspect that it is not unrepresented even in the church or the meeting-house.

We have formerly been perplexed to know how it is that there is annually such a gigantic mass of bankruptcy, fraudulent bankruptcy, which takes property out of the hands of the Guiltless to enrich the Unconvicted. Again, how is it that the garotter is wandering about the streets unrestrained? How is it that the burglar can mark the house that he desires, and appropriate its contents, without hindrance? The whole of this perplexity is explained by the suggestive complaints of the Dublin Protestants. Evidently, there is a solidarity of interests hostile to the harmless. The aggressive population, Convicted and Unconvicted, immensely outnumbers us. If you go to an evening party at the West End, you may be tolerably certain that there is a large infusion of the Uncon-

victed, perhaps a majority. Go into church, and count the REDPATHS, the KENTS, the ROBSONS, who have not yet been found out. Now these persons have influence with constituencies; they place their SADDLERS in the House of Commons; they have placed their 'Honourable Mr.' in the public offices; and they carry the election of their directors on railways. They are all governed by one concentrated purpose—pelf taken from us, the innocent, and self-protection for themselves. Their business is to look after the money-safe which is going along the railway journey; and what care they for passengers and collisions? With this worse than Russian preponderancy in the State, are we to wonder that the garotter or the burglar is favourably regarded by the policeman, who averts his eye, if he does not avert himself?

Now, then, we understand how it is that the House of Commons passes laws to prevent children being taken out of Mr. Fagin's school; now we understand how it is that laws are maintained, ostensibly for the protection of credit, but really for fructifying in these immense bankruptcies, so profitable to the predominant interest. We see it all. It is this solidarity of interest among the Unconvicted, that enormous class, which explains all the apparent solecisms and inconsistencies of our administration and legislation. The Unconvicted is in the majority, and it is able to arrange laws convenient to itself; leaving us, the unsuspecting minority, to get along as we may, among defaulters, directors, burglars, honourables, embezzlers, members of Parliament, garotters, clergymen, pickpockets, and officials.

'JUDGMENTS'—AND WANT OF JUDGMENT.

MR. JOSEPH COWEN has told us the character of that 'infidel institution' that Lord RAVENSWORTH denounced. It will be perceived that the institution takes in the *Leader*, which Lord RAVENSWORTH's friends probably class among the infidel publications; that is, it does not support the party which uses calumny, misrepresentation, and the lecture-hall of one institution for the purpose of getting up a rival institution, as a means of ingratiating a bigoted creed with the honest working classes of a manufacturing town. We need not, however, vindicate the character of our own journal; we leave that question to be settled between the RAVENSWORTH party of clerical gentlemen, and the many clergymen who are our own regular subscribers.

In fact, we regard the paroxysm of agitation among the so-called religious faction just at present, with compassion; we perceive the reasons for their distress, and the excesses into which it leads them. The clerical prophet has discovered in Ireland the reason for "the foul and fiendish murder of the late Mr. SAMUEL GEORGE LITTLE," and the Dublin Protestant Institution has adopted the theory in a formal resolution. The reason is:—

That our rulers, in their blind obstinacy, have carried out a policy for the last quarter of a century calculated to impede the course of God's truth in the land, to darken the hearts of men, and propagate a spirit of contempt for all laws, divine and social, throughout society in general.

This reminds us of the discovery of Monsignore FRANZONI, that VICTOR EMMANUEL was chastised for schismatic conduct in secularizing the property of the Church, by the death of his father, his brother, and his wife, in rapid succession.

The Dublin Protestant Institution resolved "a prayer" "that He will not deprive the country of all consular wisdom." What this means we do not know; but we know that Mr. DISRAELI, who has had friendly relations with the Dublin Protestants, formerly

studied consular law with a view to his own advancement in that line of business, and that he is master of the Asian mystery, and is in other respects the 'Coming man.' Perhaps these facts explain the allusion to "consular wisdom?"

We do not wonder, however, at the distress of the clerical orders, since their stock is not at present rising. Witness their plaintive calls for "additional" curates. Witness Dr. SHORTT's avowal that they build churches as fast as gin-palaces, but leave them unendowed. In fact, the religion of the country, as at present administered, is *not* 'self-supporting.'

GOLD-SEEKERS IN ENGLAND.

WE possess, as yet, only some passages from the autobiography of EDWARD AGAR. Nor can it be hoped that the most rigorous cross-examination will elicit the entire story. What was he doing "several times" in America? When did he begin to share the profits of embezzlement and forgery? Would he have scorned to turn highwayman? Would the same passion for money which made him a professional thief, have sufficed to render him, under other circumstances, a poisoner? Connected with questions of this sort, are not a few circumstances which curiously illustrate the theory of diverse talents and divided labour as applied to crime. One man hungers for a purse of sovereigns, and dashes out your brains on the highway, to obtain it, or breaks through your shutters, and filches your plate at the risk of a pistol-shot, or perpetual exile. Another pursues a loftier aim by a more gentle method, and robs—transfer, the wise it call—upon a magnificent scale, giving from his abundance to the poor, but relentlessly prosecuting a burglar, and transporting him for ten years. For a far inferior object the Rugeley surgeon poisons his friend. The Dublin murderer makes one gash in the throat of a cashier, and stakes his game on that. But AGAR adopts for life the business of fraud; and when persuasively interrogated by Mr. BODKIN, discloses the companionships of his profession—the agents, middlemen, and retail-dealers of larceny. He has his account at private banks; he keeps part of his money, for safety, at the Bank of England; he invests it in the public securities; but he does not care to become an ornament of the West End. No; he has his little suburban villa, and seems to live for embezzlement, as well as by it. So far as the facts of his career have been stated, it appears that he generally kept to the forger's level, never condescending to petty abstractions of watches and coin, and never daring to deal with human life, as with property, either in the GREENACRE or PALMER fashion. Nor was he, like many criminals, of an improvident disposition, devouring the fruits of one adventure before plotting another. On the contrary, before his last visit to America, having some information concerning the transit of bullion on the South-Eastern Railway he observed to PIERCE, in the ticket printing-office, that a gold robbery would be an advantageous undertaking. Now, what had he previously known of PIERCE? Why did he trust him with this suggestion? They must have been confederates before; or, at least, their confidences must have been mutual. Upon returning to England, he revived the topic, and held several interviews with the official. Then, after some coquetry, he consented to act as principal in the affair. BURGESS, the railway guard, was introduced, and the plan was organized. We must again remark upon the intimate knowledge these men seem to have ad respecting one another's character. AGAR,

moreover, reposed unlimited confidence in his accomplices. He left 200*l.* of his own property with PIERCE, and, after coming to grief himself, trusted that individual with the fortune he had bequeathed, at his civil death, to poor FANNY KAY. But it is an old story how justice comes by her own because there is *not* honour among thieves.

These were not impatient robbers. They prepared a policy, and kept to it. They took more pains to reconnoitre the bullion chest, before attacking it, than the British Government took to reconnoitre the Crimea. They spent a fortnight or three weeks at Folkestone mastering all the details about the arrival of the treasure, the locks, the keys, the methods, and the personal character of the individuals whose duty it was to guard the golden ark. They lived in private apartments at the hotel, played billiards, separated when the police seemed suspicious, and secured the alliance of TESTER, the check-clerk, who had charge of the key. One impression in wax was then obtained; but for the other they waited upon chance. Chance, with the aid of some adroitness, favoured their scheme, and though their attempt to obtain the key by hiring the safe to convey money of their own was a failure, AGAR, always provided with wax, was enabled, during the momentary absence of a clerk, to possess himself of the lockmaker's secret. From what took place afterwards, it might be supposed that AGAR had been accustomed to housebreaking. It was he who manufactured the keys, who secreted himself in the van to fit them, who provided the box-wood wedges and the wooden mallet, to avoid the sound that would be made by iron tools, who unlocked the safe, and drew the nails out of the iron-bound boxes. All this proved a burglarious proficiency in the 'opening' art. PIERCE proposed the purchase of the shot; but it is not stated who devised that ingenious variety of bags, the carpet-bags stuffed with hay, the black wig and whiskers, and broad-brimmed hat of PIERCE, the dramatic arrangement by which BURGESS was to raise his cap and wipe his face as a signal that "the gold was there."

Perhaps, however, the most remarkable of the prudence with which these alchemists conducted their operations was exhibited within the railway van, when BURGESS and AGAR were loading themselves with bullion. After emptying one chest, and refilling it with shot, they opened another and found a bright mass "of Californian gold in bars of a different colour." But, instead of appropriating the whole, they only took "as much as they had brought shot to make up the weight—and swept the floor."

Then came the process of removal, the melting, the division of the spoil, FANNY KAY being kept carefully ignorant of the whole transaction. From first to last, from the reconnoissance at Folkestone to the disposal of the gold in London, the conspirators acted with perfect coolness, unanimity, and foresight, forgetting nothing, hurrying nothing, never once shrinking from the perils of their position, and ultimately distributing the proceeds with apparent fairness, and even generosity. AGAR himself, when convicted of forgery, and sentenced to transportation for life, could scarcely have been unaware that, by offering to disclose the facts of the great gold robbery of May, 1855, he must have secured for himself the favourable consideration of the Home Office; yet he paid the price of one felony without breathing a syllable of the other, and was only induced to offer his evidence when stung by the treachery of WILLIAM PIERCE, and by the wrongs of FANNY KAY. He may hope to be rewarded for his testi-

mony, should it result in the conviction of the prisoners—that is, supposing it to be corroborated, as far as corroboration is possible; but there is not the slightest ground for believing that he has been tempted to accuse his partners by any feeling less respectable than that of revenge for the destruction of "FANNY and the child."

Meanwhile, the public has learned something from the convict AGAR, as it has learned many other things from the criminals of 1856. Not to speak of what your physician or your banker may be doing with your life or your property, you have received a hint about your neighbours. Don't be too anxious to secure the REDPATH of your neighbourhood as a director of your new company.

If you send gold by rail to Folkestone, don't be too sure that it will ever arrive. When you see a gentleman with a particularly heavy carpet-bag, fancy, if you please, that it has been filled by felony with bullion. When a person with small visible means of existence lives at an extravagant rate, be slow to believe that he is running into debt; but think of your scrip and your banker's account. These are among the lessons of the year. You may escape WILLIAM PALMER; you may even avoid ROBERT MARLEY; but you must look to it, seeing how professionally persevering is EDWARD AGAR, who is all his life a felon, who crosses the Atlantic repeatedly in the pursuit of his calling, who has 200*l.* to spare for an experiment ("I don't recollect where I got this gold from"), and who, when he is transported, leaves 7000*l.* in the hands of a partner "for FANNY."

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPS ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

WE have never counted Mr. CHARLES PHILLIPS among SOLOMONS. If the late Lord Mayor was the parallel of LYCURGUS, as he was, according to DANIEL O'CONNELL's 'relative,' Mr. Commissioner PHILLIPS certainly is not. The dim litigious light of the Insolvent Debtors' Court is admirably suited to him. He is licensed there to rebuke all extravagance except that of the orator, and all immorality except that of the advocate. And it is his undeniable privilege to enjoy a vacation, and to turn it to what use he pleases, remembering always, however, that he, Mr. CHARLES PHILLIPS, A.B., is a Commissioner.

Mr. Commissioner PHILLIPS, then, has devoted his vacation to the writing of a pamphlet* against Capital Punishment. The discussion is, in one sense, timely. There have been heard, within the last few months, certain mutterings against the mercy of the law. Indignation against garotters has taken the form of a cry that such ruffians should be hanged out of the way. If the garotters were the only persons concerned, few would be inclined to plead on the other side of the question the strangler's objection to being strangled. But the best reason urged against increasing the scope of capital punishment is contained broadly in the bankers' petition previous to the act of 1832. In that document, seven hundred and seventy-one bankers declared that the infliction of death, or the possibility of its infliction, in cases of forgery acted as a prevention of punishment, and thus "endangered the property which the law is intended to protect." This is the strong part of the argument, and its soundness is demonstrated by a series of unanswerable facts.

When stealing from a dwelling-house the amount of forty shillings was a capital offence, judges and jurors conspired to defeat the law. Juries, on their oaths, "found

* Vacation Thoughts on Capital Punishment. Charles Phillips, A.B. Longman and Co.

that prisoners had stolen to the amount of thirty-nine shillings, when it had been proved that the larceny was, in many cases, to the extent of as many guineas. Upon their oaths, these jurors 'found' that a watch and chain, a pair of diamond earrings, a silver snuff-box, six silk gowns, and two pieces of gold brocade were worth less than forty shillings—and why? Because to declare they were worth so much was to doom a man to death. "Woman! woman!" cried Lord KENTON, to a miserable creature, shrieking at the bar, "I don't mean to hang you." According to law, she should have been hanged; but the Judge forgot his oath for the sake of his humanity. Within fifteen years, five hundred and fifty-five perjured verdicts were delivered at the Old Bailey, to prevent the infliction of capital punishment in as many cases. The law then set a higher price on human life, and fixed 5*l.* as the amount for stealing which an offender would be liable to the penalty of death. But juries still resisted, and 'found' that 4*l.* 19*s.* was the highest value of any article stolen. ROBINSON, who was tried at the Old Bailey in 1801 for stealing a thousand pounds, was found guilty of stealing 4*l.* 19*s.* Moreover, in eight years, from 1797, a hundred and fifty-six people were hanged in England and Wales for forging bank-notes; and the bankers, as we have said, petitioned for a more lenient law, in order that their property might be protected. "I am as convinced of your guilt as that two and two make four," said Chief Baron RICHARDS, to a man who had just been acquitted by a Carnarvon jury, a jury which would have transported the prisoner without remorse, though it refused to hang him. Under these circumstances, we can well understand an offender "expressing a wish that he may be indicted capitally."

In another section of his pamphlet, Mr. PHILLIPS deals with two tolerably well-worn topics—the chance of putting the innocent to death, and the demoralizing influence of public executions. Well-worn as these topics are, it is right to insist on them. The story of ELIZA FENNING has made more converts to the abolitionist idea than all the statistics of Tuscany.

There is no doubt that it is a tendency of jurors, even in cases of murder, to acquit the accused if possible. The career of SARAH CHESHAM is an example. In 1847 she was tried at Chelmsford, for poisoning. The case seemed to have been proved against her; but she was acquitted. The very next year she was again indicted, for the murder of her own children, and again acquitted. She then poisoned her husband; her guilt was made manifest to the satisfaction of the jury and the public, and she was executed. Probably fourteen murders had been committed by this wretch, who was only saved, in the first instance, by the repugnance of the jury to pronounce a verdict equivalent to a sentence of death. The York 'defendants,' BATTERSBY and WILKINSON, tried in 1851, the murderer BARE, tried in 1852, ELIZABETH AYLIS DAWES, tried in 1855 (who confessed her crime), and the Matfen murderer, of whose guilt the jurymen afterwards said they had no doubt, were acquitted because the juries, in the several cases, were averse to capital punishment. JOSE, who was tried last August, was guilty of a hideous act of assassination, yet he was punished only for manslaughter.

Mr. PHILLIPS proposes, therefore, that instead of death, perpetual imprisonment, certain and incommutable, should be the punishment of assassins. They should be put to hard labour for life, with the silent system enforced one day each month, strict seclusion from the world, and the most frugal fare compatible with health.

And Mr. PHILLIPS, with a morbid eye to stage effect, further recommends that the prison should be built "on an elevation, visible, but secluded, with a black flag waving from its summit; and on its front inscribed, THE GRAVE OF THE MURDERERS!"

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies; his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MILTON.

ASSURANCE FOR ASSURERS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—It is not for one moment desired to depreciate the value of Life Assurance, and the various inestimable benefits to be derived therefrom, with any class of the community, but by every possible means to extend the business of assurance, as far as practicable, among the established institutions of the country; and to indicate, through the medium of your independent columns, the enormous loss sustained by the public in encouraging the creation of new companies, and the consequent subdivision of their contributions among so many competing societies, not only disadvantageous to themselves, but to all such existing institutions.

The number of persons male and female who could and should assure is one point of view—the number that will assure can only be ascertained by experience—but it is estimated by men of considerable ability that, compared with the total population, the number is very limited, and that the offices at present in existence (nearly two hundred) are amply sufficient to transact all the business of life assurance that will be effected for many years.

Will your correspondents "An Economist" or "An Actuary" admit that the division of the business of life assurance among so many societies is financially considered a decided advantage to the assuring portion of the community? When the established institutions have too much business to transact, then is the time for an increase to their number, but not until then.

What is life assurance but the savings of the public, accumulating at the best rate of interest compatible with security, to be returned at future undefined periods in different proportions, whenever death may happen? One of the most important elements is the rate of annual expenditure—whether five or fifty per cent.

If an institution is receiving in annual premiums 30,000*l.*, with an expenditure of 20 per cent., why not endeavour to increase that income to 300,000*l.*, reducing the expenditure to three or four per cent.? Why have the same amount divided among ten or more societies with an annual expenditure of at least 75,000*l.* when the same business can be effected with far greater security and at, comparatively speaking, an infinitesimal expense? The subdivision is denying the very principle which should govern life assurance, viz., the association of large numbers.

Whatever the field of action may be, by all means use every legitimate power to promote the extension of life assurance among all classes of the community, to increase the incomes of the many existing institutions to the highest possible amount, and thereby decrease the enormous rate of annual expenditure recently experienced.

An eminent and profound writer on Life Assurance states:—"There is too much reason to fear that many of the schemes and modifications of life assurance in the present day have been introduced rather by the ardour or the pressure of competition than by the sober judgment to choose only what will, in the end, be mutually beneficial to the companies and the assured; that the large amount paid away in commission from the savings of assurers is an unnecessary waste to themselves and a loss to their families, which they will some day discover and regret. The subject of commission paid by assurance companies for the purpose of increasing their business, or, as many are led to believe, for the more patriotic motive of extending the benefit of assurance to the unreflecting public, is forcing itself daily more on our notice. If it be argued that commission is not offered in the shape of a bribe, since the members of an honourable profession would scorn the base insinuation, for what purpose is the inducement held out, more especially by the new companies, to whom the accession of business is of the utmost importance? Do the offices combine together for the purpose of voluntarily reducing their premium, or insisting on rewarding the agents for their public spirit and patriotic feelings in thus promoting a great national object, or is it not

rather notoriously the fact, that, either by private or public arrangement, some of the companies continually step ahead of their fellows and hold out the gilded attraction in a still more glittering light?"

Take the 200 offices, mutual, mixed, and proprietary, competing against each other, offering to the public every combination of life assurance, receiving upon an estimate 5,000,000*l.* per annum at an average expenditure of 5000*l.* for each office, amounting in the aggregate to 1,000,000*l.* or 20 per cent., and reduce the number to 50 offices, receiving the same amount at an average expenditure of 4000*l.* per annum, each office diminishing the amount of expenditure to 200,000*l.*, or 4 per cent., making a difference of 800,000*l.* per annum saved; which, accumulating at 3½ per cent. compound interest for 21 years, would amount to the enormous sum of 24,000,000*l.* for future bonuses; instead of which the money is expended in commission, salaries, directors and auditors' fees, rent, taxes, advertisements, printing, stationery, and a variety of other expenses too numerous to mention. The premiums are received and distributed in expenditure, instead of being invested for accumulation.

Life assurance offices are, in other words, savings banks providing for the payment of specific sums, whenever the contingencies against which they assure may happen. Where would be the security of savings banks if the same rate of annual expenditure existed, and commission paid for introducing depositors, as in insurance offices?

It is admitted that "the recognized practice is to charge a considerable margin in favour of the society over the mathematical value of the risk attending the assurance of any life," and that such margin, combined with a higher rate of interest received than estimated in the tables, and a low rate of annual expenditure, are the true source of profit; by which means the established societies are enabled to return large bonuses to the assured, or, as an equivalent, receive considerably reduced premiums.

There are several first-rate offices in Great Britain, desirous of meeting the wants of "the industrious classes, or the smaller class of tradesmen," by issuing policies of 50*l.* and upwards, the premiums upon which can be paid either quarterly, half-yearly, or annually.

It is asked by your correspondent "An Economist," "Can 'Investigator' indicate a single healthy-conducted and skilfully-managed assurance society which has failed?" The simple answer is, that such society cannot, in all reasonable expectation, fail to meet its liabilities. These observations are made with the view of rendering every possible support to such societies, and to demonstrate to the public the enormous loss they must inevitably sustain by supporting an unlimited number of competing life assurance associations, as "there can be no buying or selling 'life assurance,' in the sense in which the word traffic is used in ordinary trade," which cannot be too deeply impressed upon the minds of the reflecting and life-assuring portion of the community, for whom, it is believed, the columns of the independent press will ever be open to enlighten and protect.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

INVESTIGATOR.

[Our correspondent appears to misunderstand the argument of those experienced authorities, who, like Mr. Scratchley and Mr. Nelson, affirm that there is abundant room for many more assurance societies than already exist. It was never contended that a great many of the present companies do not by their extravagance greatly exceed the available margins for expenses, but it will be impossible for "Investigator" to deny that it is the fault of existing societies that they do not transact a larger business. There are no reasons why there should not be an assurance office in every town, if all persons assure that should, and we hope the day is not far distant when assurance offices will supersede Benefit Societies.]

Mr. Scratchley has justly remarked in his treatise that "not only are the numbers of the population increasing, but the materials for assurance themselves are gradually changing each year; new lives are born; new lives come of age; new lives have commercial transactions, or marry and require policies of assurance. There is no doubt of the commercial prosperity, of many of the existing companies; but if they be measured by the extent of good they have done to the community at large; or by the number of families whose pecuniary difficulties, or suffering, assurance societies have contributed to alleviate, then (remembering the millions, in the United Kingdom alone, who have lived and died since an assurance office was first founded) it must be acknowledged that the number of persons who have been benefited is limited indeed; and that hundreds only have been assisted where tens of thousands have suffered; hence, so far from there being ground for no greater exertion being made to extend the operations of assurance companies, so far from there being any reason that the public should rest satisfied with the activity of the majority of existing associations, it must be acknowledged that they have failed, to a considerable extent, in their mission."

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

"SHAKSPEARE in France" is daily becoming more and more of a reality, less and less of a farce. The French have given us so many occasions for hilarity in their criticisms, translations, and quotations of SHAKSPEARE, that it will require long time and many serious efforts on their part before they will meet with the respect certainly their due now that they have earnestly and reverently set to work. The most recent of these well-qualified interpreters is M. FRANÇOIS HUGO, son of VICTOR HUGO, who, as we learn from the *Revue de Paris*, is about to publish a complete translation of SHAKSPEARE, made from the original folio of 1623, and not from the modern editions. As an evidence of the "worship of SHAKSPEARE," this translation from the original text is interesting; but it will betray more veneration than sagacity in the translator if he is to follow that confessedly imperfect text. Nor do we think, except as an antiquarian curiosity, he is well-advised in including the *Yorkshire Tragedy*, *Thomas Cromwell*, and the *Two Noble Kinsmen* among the veritable works. We fear that France may be entering on that course of blind idolatry which has so much obstructed the right appreciation of SHAKSPEARE and the Dramatic Art in Germany and England. There are hundreds, nay thousands, who will no more admit a fault in SHAKSPEARE than an error in Scripture. Even bad grammar they find an exquisite flavour; positive mistakes are the daring reaches of genius; revolting or foolish passages have profound meaning; and matters of mere carelessness or oblivion are proclaimed thoughtful intentions. That SHAKSPEARE is the greatest poet the world has ever seen, is not acknowledgment enough for these idolaters; they insist on crediting him with greatness even where he is false and feeble.

We have on several occasions expressed our conviction of the impossibility of adequately translating poetry into any language; and the difficulties inherent in all translation become extremely complicated when the translation is from a language so rich, so bold in licence, so peculiar to an age and nation as the language of SHAKSPEARE, into one so timid and rigorous as French. The romantic school in France has greatly enlarged the limits of French poetry; but no permissible latitude will enable it to embrace such forms of thought and diction as abound in SHAKSPEARE. Whatever merit M. Hugo's version may have in the eyes of his countrymen, he must not hope for much recognition from Englishmen, whose utmost praise can reach no farther than the appreciation of the difficulties. The specimens given in the *Revue de Paris* prove M. Hugo to be a thorough master of the original, and a very accomplished translator; and we may congratulate the French public on the possession of as good a translator as could be expected. Would that we had such a rendering of MOLIÈRE, the only dramatist who can take rank beside SHAKSPEARE!

The mention of MOLIÈRE reminds us of a humorous passage in his *Festin de Pierre*, which we should like to quote at one of the meetings of that immensely foolish Manchester Society for the suppression of tobacco: SGANARILLE is speaking of snuff, but his words equally apply to cigars. "Quoique puisse dire Aristote et toute la philosophie, il n'est rien d'égal au tabac; c'est la passion des honnêtes gens, et qui vit sans tabac n'est pas digne de vivre." He develops this thesis, but we must cease quoting, reminding the reader that the grave Dr. DALTON, of Atomic celebrity, found Sir HUMPHREY DAVY "an agreeable and intelligent young man" with one serious failing—"he did not like tobacco"—a verdict given in one of the letters recently published by Dr. ANGUS SMITH in his valuable *Life of Dalton*.

In the *Revue des Deux Mondes* there is a piquant article, "*Madame de Staël Ambassadrice*," which prints several inedited letters written by CORINNE to GUSTAVUS of Sweden, when she was wife of the Swedish Ambassador at Paris. To the majority of readers M. de STAEL will be a surprise. Hitherto he has been to us a mere name, an adjective joined to that potent substantive, a woman of genius, but by itself non-existent, non-significant. He was, however, a veritable male, as well as a husband; and a man of considerable parts too, as we gather from this account of him. The principal interest, however, must of course continue to centre in his wife; and her letters, written just on the eve of the French Revolution, convey a painful impression of the utter worthlessness of society at that period.

CATHERINE DE MEDICIS.

The Girlhood of Catherine de' Medici. By T. A. Trollope. Chapman and Hall. This is a very agreeable bit of historical biography, solid yet pleasant, instructive yet as easy to read as a novel—easier, indeed, than most novels. Every one is more or less acquainted with Catherine when Queen of France; but Mr. Trollope does not tell once again that oft-told story; he narrates her biography up to the period when she ascended the throne, and there leaves her. The object of his book has been to show how the "child was mother to the woman," as Wordsworth did not say, or rather how and under what influences the child grew up. At the close of his book, he says:—

Surely we have seen the fitting and perfectly sufficient preparation in the character and conduct of her kinsman and guardian, Clement; in the writings of the statesmen around him, whose pages express the best thoughts and sentiments of the world in

which her life had been passed; in the quality of her convent 'education'; in her near view and intimate knowledge of the church; in her familiarity with the highest and ex-officio holiest churchmen, and their thoughts and deeds; and in the avowed opposition and hostility of every partizan and friend of her family to all earnest aspiration towards good, all hope of improvement, all struggle after progress, moral, social, and spiritual, as expressed, however imperfectly, and often absurdly, by the doctrine of the followers and disciples of Savonarola. All these educating influences pointed steadily and consistently in one direction. And their result was to leave her active and acute intellect wholly uninformed by any moral ideas whatever. Right and wrong were practically words devoid of sense for her. Expedient, inexpedient; prudent, imprudent; wise, foolish; successful, unsuccessful; these and such-like qualities she understood; and they were the only epithets she had learned to apply to human conduct.

In this effort of hypothetical psychology we cannot say that Mr. Trollope has been strikingly successful, nor will we say that he has been obviously unsuccessful. The truth is, such an effort is necessarily too conjectural for real success. Too little is known of Catherine's character and feelings, nothing at all of the effect which certain influences exercised upon her; so that any attempt to portion out what was due to original disposition and what to external influences must inevitably remain purely conjectural.

Much better, because more solidly established, is Mr. Trollope's attempt to paint the character of those times. His researches are conveyed in a pleasant picturesque style, which keeps attention alive from first to last. He is never cumbrous or pedantic, and yet always, apparently, well-informed. We do not pretend to gauge the extent of his knowledge; but, although uninformed, we can recognize in him the characteristics of one really master of the materials he handles with ease and fulness, yet without ostentation. From the glimpses he gives us of Italian life in those days we will borrow this on

TRAVELLING IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

A journey from Florence to Rome was no easy or agreeable undertaking in the sixteenth century. Of course, all possible appliances and means, which could facilitate the passage of such travellers as the Cardinal de' Medici and his suite, were put in requisition. The dangers arising from the unsettled state of the country might, in their case, be provided against. Not always, however; for a few years later the chronic state of lawlessness, which was always oscillating between brigandage and open warfare, had approached so nearly to the latter condition, that Clement, on one of his numerous journeys, was obliged to come to Leghorn by sea, to avoid the armed bands which occupied the country between Rome and Florence.

But the obstacles opposed to all locomotion by nature, broken loose, during centuries of barbarism, from her old Roman taming, and not yet subdued anew by modern civilization, were not so easily overcome; and rains, swamps, precipices, rivers, rocks, and mud, dragged and tore the churchman's purple yet more distressingly than the soldier's jerkin. . . . But it may readily be conceived, that the conveyance of an infant five months old, over a road which men found it difficult to traverse, must have added to her cardinal cousin's many perplexities. On the occasions, rare in those days, when it was necessary that children should make a journey, they were generally carried in panniers slung over a mule's back. The heiress of the House of Medici, however, was doubtless honoured by the accommodation of a litter, capable of containing her nurse and herself. Such machines were supported on long poles, passing under them lengthwise, the two foremost ends of which were harnessed to the sides of one mule, while another similarly bore the hindmost ends; so that the animal occupied the same position relatively to their burthen as the carriers of a sedan chair do to theirs. The cardinal and his numerous suite, lay and clerical, were all mounted on horses or mules; the great man himself, and perhaps some of his more dignified ecclesiastical attendants, using the latter, and the lay commonalty the former steeds. For the well-broken, ambling journey-mule was then in Italy, as still it is to the present day in Spain, a highly valuable animal, not only considered more decorously adapted to the staid gravity of a distinguished churchman, but also very much easier in its paces than the best broken horse. In many fresco paintings of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, a pope or cardinal may be seen seated on a mule, in the midst of a noble and gorgeous cortège mounted on war-chargers. One of the finest of the paintings in the so-called library of the cathedral at Siena offers an example in the person of Pius the Second.

It is one of the staple commonplaces of rhetoric to deplore our advance in material civilization as unaccompanied by a corresponding advance in morality. We believe the advance has been as great; but let us hear Mr. Trollope on the moral condition of Italy:—

In truth the metropolis of Christendom had long before the period of Leo's papacy reached the point of downward progress at which ignorance of morality is generated by the absence of it. The moral sense was dead. The tone of the contemporary historians, some of them great writers, furnishes a striking evidence of the fact. Men and actions are pronounced by them to be wise or foolish, prudent or imprudent, expedient or inexpedient. Of right and wrong we hear nothing. The conduct of men of all sorts—of the greatest as much as of the lowest—is continually attributed in their unimpassioned pages to the meanest and worst motives, without a word of either surprise or indignation. Actions worthy of execration are quietly explained to have proceeded from the lowest and basest calculations of expediency, with the equable tone of a philosopher expounding the unvaried and necessary operation of a natural law. The vilest turpitude, the grossest injustice, the most revolting atrocities are related by them with a naïve equanimity only attainable by genuine ignorance of anything better or nobler.

In further illustration take this:—

One other anecdote, related by our friend Richa, from the chapter of the conventual ways and means, is worth giving here, as curiously characteristic of the notions entertained by these religious devotees of the nature and meaning of worship, and of the attributes of the Creator.

It was one of those great and solemn occasions when in some urgent need of the Florentines, the black Impruneta Virgin was to be brought into the city. All the convents were expected to present some offering to the favourite idol. But it happened that the ladies of the Murate were just then either very poor or very stingy, and it was debated among them with some anxiety what they should give, and how maintain the credit of their house without incurring inconvenient expense. In this difficulty the abbess at length announced that the Murate would present a magnificent mantle to the Virgin; that it would not come ruinously expensive, &c. that it should be made after a plan she would communicate to them, solely out of prayers. Accordingly the following receipt for the confection thereof is translated from the original preserved in Richa's historic pages:—

"For making the said mantle of six yards of rich brocade of gold, lined with seventy ermine skins, embroidered with sixty-three crowns in gold, and eight hundred and eighty-two precious stones, furnished with a garniture of pearls and a golden clasp, with a Solomon's knot in gold, and a button of gems, and spangled with four clasps of flowers, viz., lilies, roses, carnations, jessamines, and hyacinths,—the following prayers must be said:—

"For six yards of brocade, three psalters in honour of the Holy Trinity; fifty psalms per yard, with *Gloria tibi Domine*, and meditations on the great favours Mary received from the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

"For seventy ermine skins, seven thousand times the *Ave Maria*, in honour of the seven joys.

"For sixty-three embroidered crowns, sixty-three times the rosary, in reverence for the sixty-three years Mary lived in the world.

"For eight hundred and eighty-two precious stones, fourteen for each crown, must be repeated seven times the joys she had on earth, and seven times the joys she had in heaven.

"For a garniture of pearls, seven hundred times the *Ave Maria Stella*.

"For a clasp, seven hundred times the *O Gloriosa Domina*.

"For a Solomon's knot, seven hundred times the *Salve Regina*.

"For a golden button, seven hundred times the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*.

"For embroidered roses, seven hundred times the *Ave Sanctissima Maria*.

"For ditto carnations, seven hundred times the *Regina cali*.

"For ditto lilies, seven hundred times the *Ave Regina calorum*.

"For ditto jessamines, seven hundred times the *Quem terra*.

"For ditto hyacinths, seven hundred times the *Memento Salutat*."

These prayers, as per invoice, were, we are told, all duly rehearsed by the indefatigable female tongues of the nimble workwomen, dividing the labour amongst them as best they might. The required repetitions amount to nearly fourteen thousand, besides the "meditations;" but these might, no doubt, be run off very quickly. The appointed day came, and the awful figure was placed in the piazza in front of the municipal palace of Florence, there publicly to receive the gifts of the various guilds and religious communities. When it came to the turn of the Murate, lo! two young men, proved by the circumstances of the case to have been angels, advanced and presented on behalf of the nuns the miraculous mantle, finished in all respects exactly according to the above description.

Richa rehearses the names of various learned historians who have testified to the truth of these facts, and who triumphantly refute the objection of all impious doubters by referring them to the irrefragable evidence of the mantle itself, still to be seen in the sacristy of the Impruneta.

We can only spare room for one more passage, and it shall be that recording the extraordinary proclamation of Jesus as the King of Florence!—

There was a meeting of the great council of citizens on the 9th of February, 1529. It was much more numerously attended than had recently been the case, for there were no less than eleven hundred citizens present. The Gonfaloniere rose, and in a long speech which might have passed, says Varchi, with something very like a sneer, for one of Savonarola's sermons, rehearsed a long list of providential mercies, for which Florence owed the greatest gratitude to God. Specially he recounted how, when recently they were menaced with destruction by the lawless followers of Freundsberg and Bourbon, "the Divine mercy, moved by the prayers of certain pious persons of either sex in the city, had sent that destroying host to sack and plunder Rome, and all its clergy" instead. Passing thence to an alarming picture of the dangers then imminently threatening the state, and of the present lamentable condition of the people, he in conclusion suddenly threw himself on his knees before the assembly, crying aloud "Mercy! mercy!" to such good purpose, says Varchi, sarcastically, that the whole assembly were moved to join in the same contagious cry.

It is the nature of such emotions to propagate and intensify themselves in crowded assemblies of men. The atmosphere of the council-chamber became, as it were, charged with the religious fervour evolved from the excited nervous systems of the eleven hundred councillors, and when they were thus prepared for the reception of any monstrosity of fanaticism, the Gonfaloniere concluded his harangue by proposing that Jesus Christ should be forthwith elected and proclaimed King of Florence!

The proposition was received with enthusiasm. But no amount of exaltation could hurry those worthy guardians of constitutional liberty out of the habitual routine by which all the functionaries of the state were elected. So the pious councillors arose from their knees, and proceeded to hand about the ballot-boxes. "And of the eleven hundred of us councillors who were there in council," says honest Cambi, "there were eighteen white beans of those who would not accept Christ for their king." "It is strange," observes the historian Pignotti, with an amusing accuracy of logical inference, "that no one objected to the vote on the ground that it necessarily subjected the Florentines to the jurisdiction of the Pope, as the visible vicar of the monarch of their choice." And a commentator on Varchi suggests that in all probability this consideration did influence the dissenting minority. But it is more consistent with the ideas and habits of thought of that day, to suppose that the orthodox theory of the papal power never entered into their heads for an instant. That the great majority of the citizens should have altogether overlooked the possibility that their election of Christ might be held to involve any such consequences, is in any case another curious proof of the degree in which the bishop was altogether disregarded and forgotten in the temporal sovereign by the Italians of the sixteenth century.

The Abate Rastrelli, who speaks of Capponi's measure as an "atto di fina politica," declares that it was very successful in reconciling to him the minds of the people, and remarks with a sneer, all abbé as he was, that "the Gonfaloniere was exceedingly intimate with the friars of St. Mark, and had thoroughly well learned from them, that the best way to quiet an ignorant populace was to exhibit to them the image of some saint."

The measure was no sooner decided on, than it was ordered to be put in execution by placing an inscription to that effect over the great gate of the *palazzo pubblico*, and by erecting "in the place," says Cambi, "which the cognizance of the King of France, formerly, and more recently that of Pope Leo, occupied, the arms of our King Christ."

JAMES WATT AND STEAM ENGINES.

Memorials of the Lineage, Early Life, Education, and Genius of James Watt. By George Williamson. Printed for the Watt Club. Constable.

THE citizens of Greenock—members of the Watt Club—have induced Mr. George Williamson, who was in possession of very interesting documents connected with the life of James Watt, to publish these Memorials of their illustrious townsman. The work is irregular in form, and does not pretend to the completeness of a biography; it supplies, however, a quarry from which any master of literary art may derive materials for a *Life*. No such book at present exists. Arago composed an oratorical eulogy of James Watt, our English encyclopædists have compiled a superabundance of "sketches;" but the biography remains to be written. Meanwhile, Mr. Williamson and the Watt Club have produced, in the unpopular quarto shape, an important set of memorials, with two portraits of the great Greenock worthy, one of the renowned Papin, and other interesting illustrations. A

preliminary chapter, of Doric dulness, establishes the claims to authority possessed by the literary inheritance of Mr. Williamson.

Greenock has been careful to trace the lineage of its most illustrious citizen. His great-grandfather has been discovered, and that is all, for no Ossianic ancestry has been found or forged on this occasion. The great-grandfather is said to have been a landholder of Aberdeen, who was killed in one of Montrose's battles. His son, Thomas Watt, was one of the contumacious schoolmasters denounced by the Presbytery of Paisley, and professed mathematics, in the pursuit of which science he attained no little reputation. He was, moreover, the Bailie of a Barony, and sat severely as a judge in the Court of Crawfurd'sdyke. Of his two sons, John and James, who survived him, John died prematurely, after completing an elaborate survey of the river Clyde; and the other was the father of the famous James. In the quaint old town of Greenock, long known to seamen and merchants as a 'harbour and havening place,' this child was nurtured, and there he spent a considerable portion of his life. A 'view' of the place, dated 1767, suggests a resemblance to some Dutch colonial seaport of the eighteenth century, crowded with old-fashioned shipping. But it had been, from immemorial time, a place of maritime importance, as the key of the Clyde. Here the elder James rose to position and prosperity; here the younger was born, in January, 1736, and here, according to the invariable practice of biographers and memorial writers, much of his success in life is attributed to the character of his mother. Here, too, Mr. Williamson claims classicism for Scotland, and talks of the 'eloquent and expressive Doric' of the phrase "A braw, braw woman—none now to be seen like her"! However, James Watt went to Mr. M'Adam's commercial school, was ill-treated by the boys, ridiculed by the girls, and acquired a playground character for softness and stupidity. Why not? says Mr. Williamson. Pascal began his career at thirteen; at the same age the modern Pascal (Chalmers!) emitted the first spark of his mathematical and intellectual genius. Not till he was thirteen did Newton astonish his playfellows at Grantham, and not beyond his thirteenth year did James Watt delay to take into his hands 'the mystic key of all scientific knowledge.' He began to construct models and diagrams, to watch the movements of the stars, to study optics and geometry, to make little pulleys, blocks, pumps, and capstans, and to inspect the workshops of his father, the worthy master-wright, merchant, Bailie, and treasurer of the town. It is not certain that he did not conceive, unassisted, the principle of a crane. It is certain that he had a small forge erected for his own use, and fabricated a punch-ladle, out of a large silver coin, for one of his friends. Unhappily, the fortunes of the elder Watt began to decline; he first visited London, and then settled in Glasgow as a mathematical instrument maker, and from this point in his career, that is, during the fruitful period of his life, the young mechanician learned nothing except by his own unaided efforts. It was afterwards that he began, in reality, to invent.

Arriving in Glasgow, at twenty-one years of age, after a brief visit to London, he found himself an intruder—he had no local rights, and the Corporation of Arts and Trades refused him permission to open even the humblest workshop. Every means of conciliation having failed, says Arago, the University of Glasgow interfered, arranged, and put at the disposal of young Watt a small apartment within its own buildings, allowed him to establish a shop, and honoured him with the title of its 'instrument maker.' Behold him, then, a shopkeeper in the Salt-market at Glasgow.

It was to this place that Professor Anderson sent him, for repair, the famous model of the Newcomen engine. Thus an accident of his trade elicited his vast discovery, that of the separate condenser, which "revolutionized the commerce, and even the customs of our country." In his University room he speculated and experimented incessantly; the little atelier became an academy of arts and sciences, to which, not only the students, but the professors repaired in crowds. Here Watt learned German in order to read Leopold on Machines; Italian, to read a single learned treatise; studied Smith's Harmonics to qualify himself to build an organ, and, all the while worked assiduously for his livelihood, making the delicate and beautiful tools of the mathematician. His patent is now enrolled in Chancery; his specification of an effective, workable steam-engine, a high-pressure engine, and a horizontal rotatory engine, is recorded, but he wants—encouragement and money.

It was one of the most signal proofs of his genius that he quitted, for a time, his delicate manipulations, to compete with the greatest engineers of the day, in projects for improving the navigation of the Clyde, and devoting eighteen years of his life to the getting up of plans, to levellings, to calculations of excavations and embankments, and courses of masonry.

After this long course of surveying and engineering enterprise, by which he achieved such a reputation that he was invited to undertake the works of the Great Caledonian Canal, he formed his engagement with Mr. Boulton, of Soho, and left Scotland at the age of thirty-nine. The next three years produced important developments in his plans, for high-pressure and rotatory engines. In the Memorials referring to this period, we discover many pleasant glimpses of his private life, and illustrations of his noble, modest, generous character. When he had acquired wealth and influence, it was his first thought to benefit his native town, Greenock, now one of the great havens of the Western world, and his efforts in this respect are noticed by Mr. Williamson in a chapter prefatory to one of great historical interest on the navigation of the Clyde, and especially on the story of the first steamboat, the *Comet*, built by Henry Bell, in 1811. To set forth strongly the contrast between this initiatory vessel and the naval architecture of our own day, an engraving of the *Comet* is followed by a draught of the lines of the magnificent *Atrato*, built by Messrs. Caird for the West India Mail service.

James Watt died in August, 1819, aged eighty-four. Chantrey sculptured his image in marble for Westminster Abbey, a vast monument is to be raised upon the rock that overhangs the place of his birth, but the Steam Engine is his true memorial. Though Mr. Williamson's manner is occasionally pompous and eccentric, the volume published by the Watt Club is one of great value, as bringing more clearly into the light several remarkable episodes in the career of this wonderful mechanician.

THE FIVE GATEWAYS OF KNOWLEDGE.

The Five Gateways of Knowledge. By George Wilson, M.D. Macmillan and Co. Dr. GEORGE WILSON unites poetic with scientific faculty, and this union gives a charm to all he writes. In the little volume before us he has described the Five Senses in language so popular that a child may comprehend the meaning, so suggestive that philosophers will read it with pleasure. It is not an anatomical, it is not a psychological treatise; it is a discourse on the Senses as ministers to our animal wants, as ministers to the cultivation of the intellect, and as ministers to the gratification of the perception of beauty—the two latter functions being mainly treated of.

After describing the complex structure of the eye, Dr. Wilson says:—

How small this eye-chamber is, we all know; but it is large enough. A single tent sufficed to lodge Napoleon; and Nelson guided the fleets of England from one little cabin. And so it is with the eye; it is set apart for the reception of one guest, whose name is Light, but also Legion; and as the privileged entrant counsels, the great arms and limbs of the body are set in motion.

Within our eyes, at every instant, a picture of the outer world is painted by the pencil of the Sun on the white curtain at the back of the eye; and when it has impressed us for a moment, the black curtain absorbs and blots out the picture, and the sun paints a new one, which in its turn is blotted out, and so the process proceeds all the day long. What a strange thing this is! We speak of seeing things held before our eyes, as if the things themselves pressed in upon us, and thrust themselves into the presence of our spirits. But it is not so; you no more, any one of you, see my face at this moment, than you ever saw your own. You have looked betimes into a mirror, and seen a something beautiful or otherwise, which you have regarded as your face. Yet it was but the reflexion from a piece of glass you saw; and whether the glass dealt fairly with you or not, you cannot tell; but this is certain—your own face you never beheld. And as little do you see mine: some hundred portraits of me, no two the same, are at this moment hanging, one on the back wall of each of your eye-chambers. It is these portraits you see, not me; and I see none of you, but only certain likenesses, two for each of you, a right eye portrait and a left eye portrait, both very hasty and withal inaccurate sketches. And so it is with the whole visible world. It is far off from us, when it seems nearest. Darkness abolishes it altogether. The mid-day sun but interprets it; and we know it not in the original, but only in translation.

Face to face we shall never meet this visible world, or gaze eye to eye upon it. We know only its picture, and cannot tell whether that is faithful or not; but it cannot be altogether faithless, and we must accept it, as we do the transmitted portraits of relatives we have never seen, or the sculptured heads of men who died ages before us. On these we gaze, not distrusting them, yet not altogether confiding in them; and we must treat the outward world in the same way.

Again:—

What reverence thus attaches to every living eye! What memories belong to it! We preserve from destruction human buildings, or even single chambers, because some great event happened within their walls, or some solitary noble of our race dwelt in them. John Knox read his Bible in such a room; and Martin Luther threw his inkstand at an evil spirit in such another; Mary Queen of Scots wept over her breviary in a third, Galileo was tortured in a fourth, Isaac Newton tracked the stars from a fifth, and Shakespeare laid him down to die in a sixth; and therefore we preserve them,—and how justly!—and go long journeys to visit places so sacred.

And a similar sacredness belongs to that dim cell where the two most conflicting of unlike existences, the dead world of matter and man's immortal soul, hold their twilight interviews, and make revelations to each other.

When I think, indeed, of that large-windowed little cottage which hides under the thatch of each eyebrow, and spreads every moment on its walls pictures such as Raphael never painted, and sculptures such as Phidias could not carve, I feel that it can with justice be likened to no earthly building; or if to one, only to that Hebrew Temple which has long been in the dust. Like it, it has its Outer Court of the Gentiles, free to every visitant, and its inner chamber where only the Priests of Light may come; and that chamber is closed by a veil, within which only the High Priest LIFE can enter, to hold communion with the spiritual presence beyond.

He justly insists on the necessity of *educating* the eye—teaching it to observe. How much we can increase our power of observation by cultivating it can only be appreciated by those who have in some special manner cultivated the faculty. The painter actually *sees* hundreds of details in a landscape which escape the observation of other men; and all persons accustomed to watch their own development will remember how, by mere attention to scenery and effects of colour, their vision has become sharpened, until delicate shades, which formerly were unappreciated, now give exquisite delight. The use of the microscope marvellously educates the eye, enabling it to distinguish amidst heterogeneous masses the minutest object it is in search of. In a shallow pool, wherein the ordinary eye can discover nothing but water and a sandy bottom, the naturalist will instantaneously detect colonies of animals; because his eye is trained to detect the minute indications which to another have no meaning.

The great majority of mankind do not and cannot see one fraction of what they were intended to see. The proverb that "None are so blind as those that will not see" is as true of physical as of moral vision. By neglect and carelessness we have made ourselves unable to discern hundreds of things which are before us to be seen. Thomas Carlyle has summed this up in one pregnant sentence, "The eye sees what it brings the power to see." How true is this! The sailor on the look-out can see a ship where the landsman sees nothing; the Esquimaux can distinguish a white fox amidst the white snow; the American backwoodsman will fire a rifle-ball so as to strike a nut out of the mouth of a squirrel without hurting it; the Red Indian boys hold their hands up as marks to each other, certain that the unerring arrow will be shot between the spread-out fingers; the astronomer can see a star in the sky, where to others the blue expanse is unbroken; the shepherd can distinguish the face of every sheep in his flock; the mosaic worker can detect distinctions of colour where others see none; and multitudes of additional examples might be given of what education does for the eye.

In his notice of the Ear, Dr. Wilson draws a contrast between the ear and the eye, especially with reference to Deafness and Blindness. Agreeing with the major part of what he has written, we question some of his statements. For instance, when he says:—

It costs us no effort to summon before us, even though destitute of the painter's gifts, endless landscapes, cities, or processions, and faces innumerable; but even rarely endowed musicians can mentally reproduce few, comparatively, of the melodies or harmonies they know, if debarred from uttering them vocally, or through some instrument. We may test this point by the experience of our dreams.

He represents the ordinary condition of the two faculties accurately enough, but when he carries this on to the highly developed condition of the musical faculty he is certainly in error. We are not 'rarely endowed musicians' but we can assure him that we constantly recall melodies and complicated harmonies, as pure remembrances, without giving them vocal or instrumental utterance. Nay more, it frequently occurs to us to have a melody, or a passage of Beethoven, haunting us through the day, which disappears immediately we attempt to hum or sing it. In trying to recover a melody, the phrases exist mentally before we can give them vocal utterance.

We should also dispute the following passage:—

Although the ear has a greatly more limited range in space and time than the eye, it is in a very remarkable respect a more perfect instrument than the organ of sight. The eye can regard but a single object at a time, and must shift its glances from point to point when many objects are before it which it wishes to compare together. And when prosecuting this comparison, between, for example, two bodies, it has in reality but one imprinted on it, and compares the perceived image of this one with the remembered image of the other. This fact escapes us in ordinary vision, because the impression or shadow of a body on the retina remains for some time after the object is withdrawn from the sphere of sight,—a fact of which we can easily assure ourselves by whirling before our eyes a lighted band, when it appears, not a succession of flaming points, as it actually is when so whirled, but an unbroken circle of fire.

In one glance the eye assuredly takes in as many objects as the ear takes in in one audition. The multitudinous details of a landscape must be successively observed, but they are simultaneously impressed on the retina, at least quite as much so as many sounds are on the tympanum.

It is otherwise with the ear. Although perfectly untutored, it can listen to many sounds at once, distinguish their difference, and compare them together. Every one must be conscious of this. The simplest two-part tune demands from its hearer the simultaneous perception of a bass and a treble note, which impress the ear at exactly the same moment, but are perfectly distinguished from each other. A pianoforte player executing such a tune, requires alternately to shift his eyes from the bass to the treble line, for he cannot see simultaneously the two notes as he can hear them; and every one may easily observe the contrasted power of the eye and the ear by trying to read simultaneously all the staves of a four-part song, whilst he is hearing it sung. Even an imperfect musical ear will without an effort distinguish each of the four voices singing different notes; whilst the most skillful eye cannot read more than a note or a chord at a time. I suppose every one has noticed the contrast between the air of anxiety which musical performers wear, when playing from music, compared with the serene or exultant look which sits upon their faces when playing from memory or improvising. This applies even to the greatest musicians, and cannot be conquered by education; for no training will confer upon the eye powers similar to those which the ear possesses without any training.

In the illustration chosen Dr. Wilson's argument seems correct; but the true contrast would be between the various sounds of a forest and the various sights of a forest, or between the impressions of sound from an orchestra, and the impressions of sight on the spectator; and here we think the eye equal to the ear; for if it is true that the eye is in constant motion to bring the different objects within focus, it is no less true that the ear is in constant motion also—no two different sounds reach it at exactly the same moment; in fact difference of sound is dependent on difference in the wave of the vibrating medium, and the crash of an orchestra is no more simultaneous than the visual effects of a landscape. This, however, is too subtle a matter to be here discussed, and perhaps Dr. Wilson, after all, is not of a different opinion, but only seems to be so because his language, addressed to a popular audience, expresses broad distinctions. At any rate we recommend his little book—little in size, but not in meaning—to all our readers.

SEVENTEEN RUSSIAN STORIES.

Russian Popular Tales. Translated from the German of Anton Dietrich. With an Introduction by Jacob Grimm. Chapman and Hall.

SOME of the tales in this collection, though traceable to no particular source, are obviously importations from Asia. Others have a close affinity with the popular German myth, while one, at least, is of Italian origin. Jacob Grimm identifies as purely Slavonic features the account of miraculous horses dug out of the earth, of the halt of an army on the royal forbidden meadows, a quaint personification of grief occurring in one of the stories, and the custom of combatants fraternizing when one has been overthrown by the other. The fraternization here referred to is more than nominal, it being stipulated which of the knights shall consider himself the elder, and which the younger, brother. Grimm believes also that in this collection the basis of a national epic, Serbian in style and metre, may be recognised. Dietrich brought the stories from Moscow, in the form in which they are there sold to the poorer classes of the people. Of such simple literature, an ancient popular heritage, the censorship takes no notice. The number three occurs in a remarkable manner throughout, and on a remarkable variety of occasions, fathers having usually three sons, knights commencing their careers at thirty-three years of age, and succeeding in their enterprises after three trials. The most impossible of impossibilities are described, the tale-tellers recording, without compunction, the slaying of millions by a single hero, the carrying off of a kingdom in an egg-shell, riders dashing on for a year without drawing bridle. Nevertheless they often invent with wonderful ingenuity, and narrate with admirable vigor. We quote "The Judgment of Shemyaka," not because it is the best in the volume, but because it is the shortest. Moreover, some of our readers may be struck by its identity with "The Hungry Kadi," brought into this country from Egypt:—

THE JUDGMENT OF SHEMYAKA.

Two brothers once lived upon a little plot of ground,—one rich, the other poor. The poor brother went to the rich one, to beg of him a horse, that he might hew wood from the forest. His brother gave him the horse; but the poor one begged of him likewise a horse-collar, whereat the other was angry, and would not give it him. So the poor fellow, in his trouble, fastened the sledge to the horse's tail, and drove to the forest, and got such a load of wood that the horse had scarcely strength to draw it. When he came home, he opened the gate, but forgot to remove the board; and the horse stumbled against the board and lost his tail. The poor fellow took the horse back, but when his brother saw the beast without a tail, he would not have him, and went before the judge Shemyaka, to make a complaint. The poor man

saw that he should fall into trouble, and the judge would send for him; he considered a long while that he had nothing to give, and he followed his brother on foot.

It happened that on the way to town the two brothers had to go over a bridge; and the poor man, thinking that he should not return alive from the judge Shemyaka, threw himself over the bridge, to put an end to his life; but just at that instant a young man was driving his sick father to the bath-house; and the poor fellow fell upon the sledge, and crushed the old man. So the son went to the judge to make his complaint, that the poor brother had killed his father.

The rich man came before the judge Shemyaka, and complained that his brother had pulled off the tail of his horse. The poor man took a stone, and tied it in a handkerchief; and standing behind his brother, he held it up to the judge, intending to kill him, unless he decided in his favour. Then the judge bethought him that the handkerchief might perhaps be filled with roubles, and he ordered the rich man to give back the horse to the poor one, until his tail had grown again.

Then the son came, and accused the poor man of having crushed his father to death, and made a formal complaint to the judge. The poor man took up the stone again, and showed it as before to the judge, who fancied that the man would perhaps give him for this charge another hundred roubles. So he ordered the son to station himself on the bridge, and the poor man under it; and that the son should in like manner leap down upon the poor man and crush him.

Then came the poor brother to the rich one, to fetch the horse without a tail, according to the judge's sentence, and to wait until the tail grew again. The rich man was very loath to give up the horse, and instead made him a present of five roubles, three bushels of corn, and a milk-goat, and thus they settled their quarrel.

Then the poor man went to the son, and said, "Come, the judge has said that you must place yourself on the bridge, while I stand under it, and you must throw yourself down on me and kill me." Then the son thought to himself, "Who knows but that, if I throw myself from the bridge, I may perhaps, instead of falling upon this man, dash myself to pieces!" So he tried to make peace with the poor man, and gave him two hundred roubles, a horse, and five bushels of corn.

But the judge Shemyaka sent his servant to the poor man, to demand two hundred roubles. Then the poor man showed him the stone, and said, "If the judge had not decided in my favour, I should have killed him." So the servant went back to the judge, and told him what the poor man had said; whereat the judge overjoyed exclaimed, "Heaven be thanked that I decided in this man's favour!"

Children will travel with delight into this new Russian realm of Fairy.

The Arts.

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES.

Mr. Phelps has made his twenty-ninth revival of SHAKESPEARE'S plays in the production, last Saturday, of *The Taming of the Shrew*. Like Mr. WEBSTER at the HAYMARKET, in 1844, Mr. PHELPS has retained the delightful Introduction—manifestly the work of the great dramatist, and containing some of his finest poetry, being, indeed, of a far superior order to the play itself; but, unlike his predecessor, the Islington manager has not dispensed with scenery. *Sly*, the tinker, is performed by Mr. PHELPS himself, with a stolidity and brutish subjection to mere sensual indulgence—an utter abandonment to the pint pot and the heavy stupidity of drunkenness—which makes the small part he has to represent another of his careful and elaborate portraiture. After the play has advanced an act or two, the tinker is carried off insensible, and his place knows him no more. The parts of *Petruchio* and *Katherine* are sustained by Mr. MARSTON and Miss ATKINSON, to the great satisfaction of the audience.

The first of the series of winter concerts, to be given on Saturdays at the CRYSTAL PALACE, took place last Saturday. The music was chiefly instrumental, the only vocalist being Madame RÜDERSDORFF, who has been engaged for a series of six concerts. In addition to the Saturday Concerts, there are to be musical performances on Fridays.

Miss BLANCHE FANE—the charming young lady who set all the male heads and hearts of London aflame some year or more ago by the exquisite grace and apparent spontaneity of her acting, but who has recently withdrawn her light from the dramatic world—re-appeared on Monday, at her former theatrical home, in a new piece called *A Family Failing*, in which she and Mr. BUCKSTONE perform two irascible lovers of the time of CHARLES II., who, after raising a devastating storm about their paths, and hanging like two destructive meteors over the doomed crockery and furniture, finally appease their ruffled spirits in the calm waters of matrimony. The vaudeville is from the French, and is almost devoid of plot; but, with so genial a piece of wrath as Mr. BUCKSTONE, and so fascinating a bit of mischief as Miss BLANCHE FANE, the success of the trifle was not to be doubted; and successful accordingly it is.

A French ballet, produced at the Grand Opera of Paris, has sprung up at the London ADELPHI into a strange, but pretty, kind of mongrel, half ballet, half extravaganza, called *The Elves*. Lovers of stage fairyland will here find a romantic story of a Hungarian Count, who finds a statue of a Dryad among the ruins of an antique temple in the depths of one of his native forests, and who falls in love with the marble nymph when the Queen of the Elves has endowed it with life—a transformation, however, which only endures in the daytime. The statue-lady, thus quickened with a dubious vitality, is performed by Madame CELESTE, who dances with her accustomed grace. There are also parts for Mr.

WRIGHT, Mr. SELBY (the adaptor of the piece), Miss WYNDHAM, and Miss MARY KEELLY; and, the scenery being brilliant, and the story pleasant, the audience expressed their entire satisfaction with the entertainment.

A little drama (also of French origin) was produced at the PRINCESS'S, on Tuesday evening, under the title of *Our Wife, or the Rose of Amiens*. The scene is laid in France during the time of Cardinal RICHELIEU, and an entertaining and original story serves to bring out the respective merits of Mr. HABLEY, Mr. RYDER, Mr. D. FISHER, Miss LECLEUCQ, and Miss MURRAY.

The Operatic performances at DRURY LANE continue to attract admiring audiences. MOZART'S *Don Giovanni* was brought out on Saturday with an admirable cast—Donna Anna being performed by GRIET, Donna Elvira by Madame RÜDERSDORFF, Zerlina by Madame GASSER, the Commendatore by Herr FORKES (who, out of a fine feeling for his art, abandoned his own character of *Leporello* to Signor ROVERE), and *Don Giovanni* by M. GASSER. The house was crowded, and the enthusiasm worthy of the grandeur of this greatest of musical dramas.

The oratorio of *Israel in Egypt* was performed before a large audience in St. MARTIN'S HALL on Wednesday evening. Mr. HULLAH was the conductor, and Madame RÜDERSDORFF was among the vocalists.

THE HANDEL MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

Let us hear no more of 'monster concerts.' Monster is but a feeble word to express the stupendous idea which has been conceived by the Sacred Harmonic Society, and which they propose to carry into execution next May. The greatest previous effort of the same kind becomes "a very shallow monster" in the comparison; nay, we shall expect to hear of some atmospheric disturbances, consequent on the tempest of sound which will be hurled forth from the Sydenham Paradise in the ensuing year's merry, but somewhat cold and cloudy, month. At any rate, we read that—

"The subject of a great musical celebration of the centenary of Handel's death, in 1859, has already occupied considerable attention. In order to demonstrate the capabilities of the Crystal Palace for this purpose, arrangements have been concluded between the Sacred Harmonic Society and the directory of the Crystal Palace Company, for undertaking, in May next, in the central transept, a preliminary Grand Handel Festival of Congress, with a carefully selected orchestra of the unprecedented extent of 2800 performers."

Nervous persons are beginning to ask alarming questions; as—Are we to have a repetition of the catastrophe before Jericho? What is likely to be the amount of damage in broken glass? what in fractured girders? Will all the bells in London be set vibrating in sympathy with the amazing body of sound? and is there not reason to fear that the speakers at the May meetings at EXETER HALL will not be able to hear themselves? Such are the inquiries of the timid; but to the musician and the lover of music the performance will be of the profoundest interest, and it is already anticipated with mingled curiosity and confidence.

Some interesting additional particulars (derived from the published letter of the Society's treasurer, Mr. ROBERT BOWLEY) are given by the *Daily News*, together with some judicious observations:—

"It is intended that the orchestra shall consist of 2000 chorus singers, being 500 to each of the four vocal parts; that the instrumental band shall number about 800 performers—viz., 112 violins, 36 each of violas, violoncellos, and double basses, with quadruple wind instruments, and 'the most powerful organ that can be built for the occasion.' . . . It is certain that the choruses of Handel, with their breadth, simplicity, great masses of sound, and absence of minute or complicated details, admit of much larger choral and orchestral bodies than the more elaborate and intricate harmonies of the modern school; but to what extent the scale of their performance may be carried (for it must have a limit) can be ascertained only by actual proof. It cannot be doubted that every possible precaution, in regard to the acoustical properties of the building, the arrangements of the orchestra, the quality of every performer, and the careful discipline of the whole body, will be taken; and we look forward to a most interesting experiment with every hope of its success."

The power of giving utterance to harmony on a vast scale, yet so admirably managed that the result has all the completeness of a smaller performance, has marvellously increased within the last few years; and the Sydenham building itself has given a great impulse to these stupendous developments of the musician's art. EXETER HALL, and the other large erections scattered over the kingdom—not to speak of the choral performances in our grand old cathedrals—have done much; but, on the opening of the People's Palace in 1854, an effect such as had never before been heard by mortal ears surged and echoed among those crystal courts and airy galleries. The success of that attempt may be regarded as an earnest of the success of the much more stupendous efforts of May, 1857, and May, 1859. England, the adopted land of HANDEL, has the best of Handelian performers; a society such as the Sacred Harmonic will know how to organize this vast musical army with a view to the total effect; and with Mr. COSTA for a conductor, the public may be said to have a guarantee for the most perfect result. We may almost imagine that the ghost of the master himself will not be absent from so noble a tribute to his honour—that he will float on the great flux and reflux of modulated sound, and look down upon his devotees from the midst of the "pomp and threatening harmony."

It should be added that the season of the Sacred Harmonic Society commences at EXETER HALL, with HANDEL'S *Solomon*, on Friday, the 28th inst. The coming Festival imparts additional interest to the performance of HANDEL'S Oratorios at the present time.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, November 18.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM CHARLES STUART, Cambridge, tailor—JAMES FORD, Dover, licensed victualler—CHARLES VAN LOBE, Broad-street, woollen warehouseman—GEORGE KELLY KING, Brighton, dealer in embossing presses—CHARLES HAWKINS, Strand, camp equipage manufacturer—MARIA KATE, Tottenham-court-road, hosier—WILLIAM JONES, Birmingham, timber merchant—WILLIAM HUMPHREYS, Kingswipford, Staffordshire, innkeeper—BENJAMIN BAKER, Monckton, Somersetshire, dairyman—JAMES MACKENZIE and STEPHEN COTTON, Leeds, machine makers—WILLIAM WILLIFORD, Scarborough, wine merchant—THOMAS HOWITT, Sheffield, licensed victualler—JAMES HARRISON, Southport, Lancashire, coffee-house keeper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. D. HUNTER, Glasgow, tool agent—J. RANKIN, Glasgow, wine merchant—A. MUNRO, Pais, merchant—G. G. DODD, Airdrie, engineer—A. STEWART, Glasgow, tailor—A. THOMSON, Portway, Banbridge, miller—J. MARTIN, Carlisle, Lancashire, timber merchant.

Friday, November 21.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM JONES, Broadway, Westminster, draper—HENRY CLARK, Nuneaton, ribbon manufacturer—MYER JACOBS, Steward-street, Spitalfields, manu-

facturer and printer—ROWLAND MUCKLESTON, Hackney-road-crescent, boot manufacturer—JOHN WILKINSON, Sittingbourne, Kent, railway contractor—HENRY PHILLIMORE WINCHCOMBE, Swansea, ship broker—ROBERT RADNOR, Presleigh, county of Radnor, cabinet maker—SAMUEL JAMES HARRISON, Kidderminster, cabinet maker—JAMES LEYLAND, St. Helen's, Lancashire, beer-seller—LYLA HOLDEN, Walsall, Staffordshire, currier—EDWARD GYLES CROOK, Chorley, apothecary—ROBERT HELSBY and JOSEPH HELSBY, Garston, Lancashire, builders—DOMENICHO BRAGGIOTTI and PAUL TESTA, Lombard-street, merchants.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BENHAM.—On the 11th inst., at Syon Lodge, Isleworth, the wife of E. Benham, Esq., a son, stillborn.

KENNEDY.—On the 12th inst., at St. Helier's, Jersey, the Lady Gilbert Kennedy, prematurely: a son.

MARRIAGES.

HOLTOM.—WILLIS.—On the 18th inst., at Kennington Church, Alexander Holtom, youngest son of Thomas Holtom, to Christiana Willis, youngest daughter of the late George Willis, of Clapham.

TOWGOOD.—WALLINGTON.—On the 18th inst., at Crud-

well, Wilts, William Towgood, Esq., late of Cardiff, to Anne Elizabeth, only daughter of John Wallington, Esq.

DEATHS.

FORTESCUE.—On Sunday, the 2nd inst., from a fall from the rigging, on board the R. Y. S. schooner Fancy, cruising in the Mediterranean, George Grenville Fortescue, Esq., eldest son of the Hon. George and Lady Louisa Fortescue, aged 21.

HALL.—On the 10th inst., at the Camp, Aldershot, Captain Jasper Hall, 4th (King's Own) Regiment, aged 39, late A.D.C. to Lieutenant-General Sir William J. Codrington, K.C.B.

TRELAUNY.—On the 15th inst., at his seat, Harwood, Cornwall, in the 76th year of his age, Sir William Lewis Salusbury Trevelyan, Bart., her Majesty's Lieutenant for the county of Cornwall.

POWER.—On the 17th inst., at No. 3, Grosvenor-terrace, Belgrave-road, Pimlico, Lieut.-Col. John Francis Power, Commanding Depot of the British German Legion, Shorncliffe, late of the 35th Regiment, and formerly of the 2nd Hussars, King's German Legion, aged 64. He fought at Copenhagen, Benavente, Coruna, and Waterloo.

MAITLAND.—On the 16th inst., of ague, contracted in the Crimea, in his 32nd year, Captain William Whitaker Maitland, of her Majesty's 49th Regiment, eldest son and heir of William Whitaker Maitland, of Loughton Hall, in the county of Essex, Esq.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, November 21, 1856.

The English funds, which were quoted 92½ this time last week, have since then continued to rise steadily until they have reached 93½, 94, they have, however, experienced some reaction to-day, in consequence of a preponderance of sellers, many people no doubt availing themselves of what may be considered by them merely a temporary rise as a good opportunity for realising their profits. Business has been a little more active during the past week in almost all the markets.

Midlands have had a rise of more than 2 per cent, and Lancashire and Yorkshire of about 1½ per cent. The Turkish 6 per cents., which were carried over from last account at 94½, have been dealt in this week at an advance of about 3½ per cent.; they close this evening at 95½. The James Baines, whose arrival from Australia has been looked for with so much anxiety for some time, being long overdue, has been spoken with off the coast of Ireland. She is on her way to Liverpool with three other ships. They bring home a large amount of money—probably nearly two millions.

The following are the closing prices of to-day:—
Aberdeen, —, Caledonian, 57, 57½; Chester and Holyhead, 36, 35; Eastern Counties, 9, 9½; Great Northern, 94, 91½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 115, 117; Great Western, 60½, 60½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 94, 95; London and Blackwall, 63, 64; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 107, 108; London and North-Western, 103½, 104; London and South-Western, 105½, 106; Midland, 79½, 80½; North-Eastern (Berwick), 82½, 83½; South-Eastern (Dover), 79½, 79½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 64, 7; Dutch Rhénish, 1, 1½; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 32½, 33; Great Central of France, 3, 3½; Great Luxembourg, 4, 5; Northern of France, 37, 37½; Paris and Lyons, 50½, 51; Royal Danish, 17, 19; Royal Swedish, 1, 1½; Sambre and Meuse, 9, 9½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, November 21, 1856.

The supply of English Wheat has been moderate, but there have been liberal supplies of Foreign Wheat this week. There have been few arrivals off the Coast, and most of those were sold previously. A cargo of hard Tagauros, out of condition, has been sold at 40s. Saidi is held at 47s. Beheira at 45s. Galatz Maize, arrived with good report, has been sold at 37s.; another, with imperfect report, at 34s. 6d.; Odessa, good report, at 36s. 3d.; Ibrail, good report, at 34s. 6d., and one with imperfect report, at 33s., and a cargo of Ibrail on passage at 35s.

Barley and Oats, both Foreign and English, have arrived in large quantities, and prices have declined.
Norfolk Flour ranges from 44s. 6d. to 46s.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	217	215	217	217	215	215
3 per Cent. Red.....	91½	91½	92½	92½	92½	92½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	92	92	92	92½	92½	92½
Consols for Account	93	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
New 3 per Cent. An.	92	92	92½	92½	92½	92½
New 2½ per Cent. An.	92	92	92½	92½	92½	92½
Long Ans. 1850.....	17½	16½	17½	17½	16	16
India Stock.....	225	225	227	227	224½	224½
Ditto Bonds, £1000.....	2 d	2 d	2 d	2 d	2 d	2 d
Ditto, under £1000.....	2 d	2 d	2 d	2 d	2 d	2 d
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	1 d	1 d	1 d	1 d	1 d	1 d
Ditto, £200.....	3 d	3 d	2 p	2 p	2 p	2 p
Ditto, Small.....	1 d	1 d	2 p	3 p	3 p	3 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds.....	100½	Portuguese 4 per Cents. ...
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents. ...	100½	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents. ...
Chilian 6 per Cents. ...	99	Russian 4½ per Cents. ...
Chilian 3 per Cents. ...	99	Spanish... 41½
Dutch 2½ per Cents. ...	65½	Spanish Committee Cer-
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. ...	90½	of Coup. not fun.
Ecuador Bonds.....	144	Turkish 6 per Cents.
Mexican Account.....	72½	Turkish New, 4 ditto... 100½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents. ...	72½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents. ...
Portuguese 3 per Cents. ...	45	

FRAMPTON'S PILL OF HEALTH.—The manifold advantages to the heads of families from the possession of a medicine of known efficacy, that may be resorted to with confidence, and used with success in cases of temporary sickness, occurring in families more or less every day, are so obvious to all, that no question can be raised of its importance to every housekeeper in the kingdom.

For females, these Pills are truly excellent, removing all obstructions, the distressing headache so very prevalent with the sex, depression of spirits, dullness of sight, nervous affections, blotches, pimples, and sallowness of the skin, and produce a healthy complexion.

Sold by PROUT and HARSANT, 229, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors.

Price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS
THE UNRIVALLED CURATIVES OF THE AGE.
—John Swift, of Deptford, in a letter to Professor Holloway, dated September 19, 1856, states that his wife suffered nearly four years with an ulcerated leg; she consulted the most eminent of the Faculty without obtaining the slightest alleviation of pain. At last, advised to use Holloway's Ointment and Pills, the wounds were quickly healed. He concludes by expressing his heartfelt gratitude to one who had been the means, under "Divine Providence," of restoring his wife to perfect health.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the world; at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stampa, Constantinople; A. Guidley, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, and during the week (first time), the Comedy of **WIVES AS THEY WERE AND MAIDS AS THEY ARE.**

Lord Priory, Mr. Addison; Sir W. Dorrillon, Mr. F. Vining; Sir G. Evelyn, Mr. G. Murray; Bronzoni, Mr. G. Vining; Norberry, Mr. G. Cooke; Oliver, Mr. White; Nabson, Mr. H. Cooper.

Lady Priory, Miss Swanborough (from the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, her first appearance); Lady Mary Ruffles, Miss Herbert, Miss Dorrillon (first time), Mrs. Stirling.

After which (first time), a new Farce called **JONES THE AVENGER.**

Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, J. Rogers, Danvers, G. Cooke, and Miss Marston.

Commence at Half-past Seven.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC

BADEN will open on Monday Evening, Nov. 24th. Stalls may now be had at the Box-office, every day, between Eleven and Four. Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

SALLE VOUSDEN, 315, Oxford-street (ten doors from Regent-circus).—Every evening during the week (except Saturday), **VALENTINE VOUSDEN**, the Great POLYNATONAL MIMIC, will appear in his original Entertainment, **THE UNITY OF NATIONS**, as performed by him for 300 consecutive nights at the Rotunda, Dublin.—See opinions of the Press.

Reserved seats, 3s.; Second ditto, 2s.; Third ditto, 1s. Doors open at Half-past Seven, commence at Eight. The Reserved Seats may be secured at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM.

4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open (for gentlemen only) from Ten till Ten, containing upwards of one thousand models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of men, &c. Lectures delivered at Twelve, Two, Four, and at Half-past Seven, by Dr. G. Sexton, F.R.G.S.; and a new and highly-interesting Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. Kahn, at a Quarter past Eight, P.M. precisely.—Admission, 1s.

HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO., Wine

and Spirit Merchants, 43, PAUL MALL, LONDON, offer to the public Old and Superior WINES, pure, and of the finest quality, at prices not exceeding those charged for ordinary Wines.

HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO. would call special attention to their PALE and GOLDEN DINNER SHERRIES, as under: Imperial Pints, 27s. to 34s. per dozen; or bottled in Reputed Quarts, 36s. to 45s. per dozen.

Agents for Allsopp's Pale and India Ale.

SPANISH and WESTPHALIA HAMS, 8½d.

per lb. Good Cheshire Cheese, 5½d., 6½d., and 7½d. per lb. Rich Blue Mould Siltion, 8d., 10d., and 12d. per lb.; matchless do., 14d. per lb. Osborn's famed best Smoked Breakfast Bacon is now in excellent cure. York Hams, large and small, in abundance, and Butters in perfection at reasonable rates. A saving of 15 per cent. to the purchaser of all provisions. Packages gratis.

OSBORNE'S Cheese Warehouse, 30, Ludgate-hill, St. Paul's.

BLAIR'S GOUT and RHEUMATIC PILLS.

This preparation is one of the benefits which the science of modern chemistry has conferred upon mankind, for, during the first twenty years of the present century, to speak of a cure for the Gout was considered a romance—but now the efficacy and safety of this medicine is so fully demonstrated by unsolicited testimonials from persons in every rank of life, that public opinion proclaims this as one of the most important discoveries of the present age.

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A NEW and IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN THE

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Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna.

TRIESEMAR, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, is prepared in the form of a lozenge, devoid of taste or smell, and can be carried in the waistcoat pocket. Sold in tin cases, divided into separate doses, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, Ricord, &c., &c.

TRIESEMAR, No. 1., is a Remedy for Relaxation, Spermatorrhoea, and all the distressing consequences arising from early abuse, indiscriminate excesses, or too long residence in hot climates. It has restored bodily and sexual strength and vigour to thousands of debilitated individuals, who are now enjoying health and the Functions of Manhood through this Wonderful Discovery!

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60	10	16	0
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Date of Policy	March 18, 1845	April 24, 1845	Nov. 7, 1845
Age at Entry	30	42	51
Annual Premium	£25 7 6	£35 16 8	£49 8 4
Sum Assured	1000 0 0	1000 0 0	1000 0 0
Bonus added	137 10 0	184 0 0	211 10 0

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-------------------	-----------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------

	£	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
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30	1000	23 13 4	8 1 8	17 11 8
40	1000	33 18 4	10 13 8	23 4 8
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